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THE TIMES

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TODAY

Girls in white cotton
...never
reaching
the shops
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TOMORROW

**Windsors, Spencers
and the Diana wars**
by Andrew Morton

MEDIA How to make a lad's mag succeed: make 'em laugh, sell 'em high p35-38

Party membership begins to decline

Blair facing anger from rank and file

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR'S honeymoon with his party was all but over last night as membership fell for the first time since he became leader and Labour chiefs were accused of stifling dissent before next month's conference.

The leadership's difficulties were compounded when Liz Davies, a hard Left party activist who is campaigning for a seat on the national executive, accused the leadership of digging the NEC ballot next month by allowing telephone voting.

Officials admitted that the number of people joining was now "in gentle decline" because the party had failed to modernise its message since taking power. They said they had been unable to spend money on membership drives because the party had debts of £4.5 million, since reduced to £2.25 million.

Membership peaked at 405,000 in January this year but has now fallen to 394,000. Officials said that a further 5,000 people had said that they would join during fundraising events, but predicted that membership would fall by another 12,000 by the end of next year.

The drop is the first fall since Mr Blair was elected leader in July 1994. This year 30,000 people joined, compared to 91,763 the first full year after Mr Blair became leader. The party is losing members at the rate of 9 per cent a year.

The release of the figures coincided with an attack by the veteran Labour leftwinger, Tony Benn, on the Labour leadership for "neutering the party conference" with its reforms and turning it into an American Democratic convention.



Davies: ballot-fixing row

"Instead of turning up with resolutions we will be expected to arrive with balloons to release when the leader arrives," he said.

Mr Davies said the party was "in a state of confusion" and that the NEC was "a rubber stamp for the Government". He said the party was "in a state of confusion" and that the NEC was "a rubber stamp for the Government".

Public votes over motions submitted by unions or constituencies against the party leadership will no longer take place. Delegates will be able to air their views in two 90-minute sessions behind closed doors at conference and only four or five "contemporary motions" will be picked out for open debate.

Most of the rest of the week will be devoted to debates about policy documents which contain little detail. Delegates will be able to approve them or send them back to the policy-making bodies.

Some left-wing MPs claimed that the leadership was deliberately strengthening its control over the conference, stifling criticism and

providing a presidential-style platform for Mr Blair.

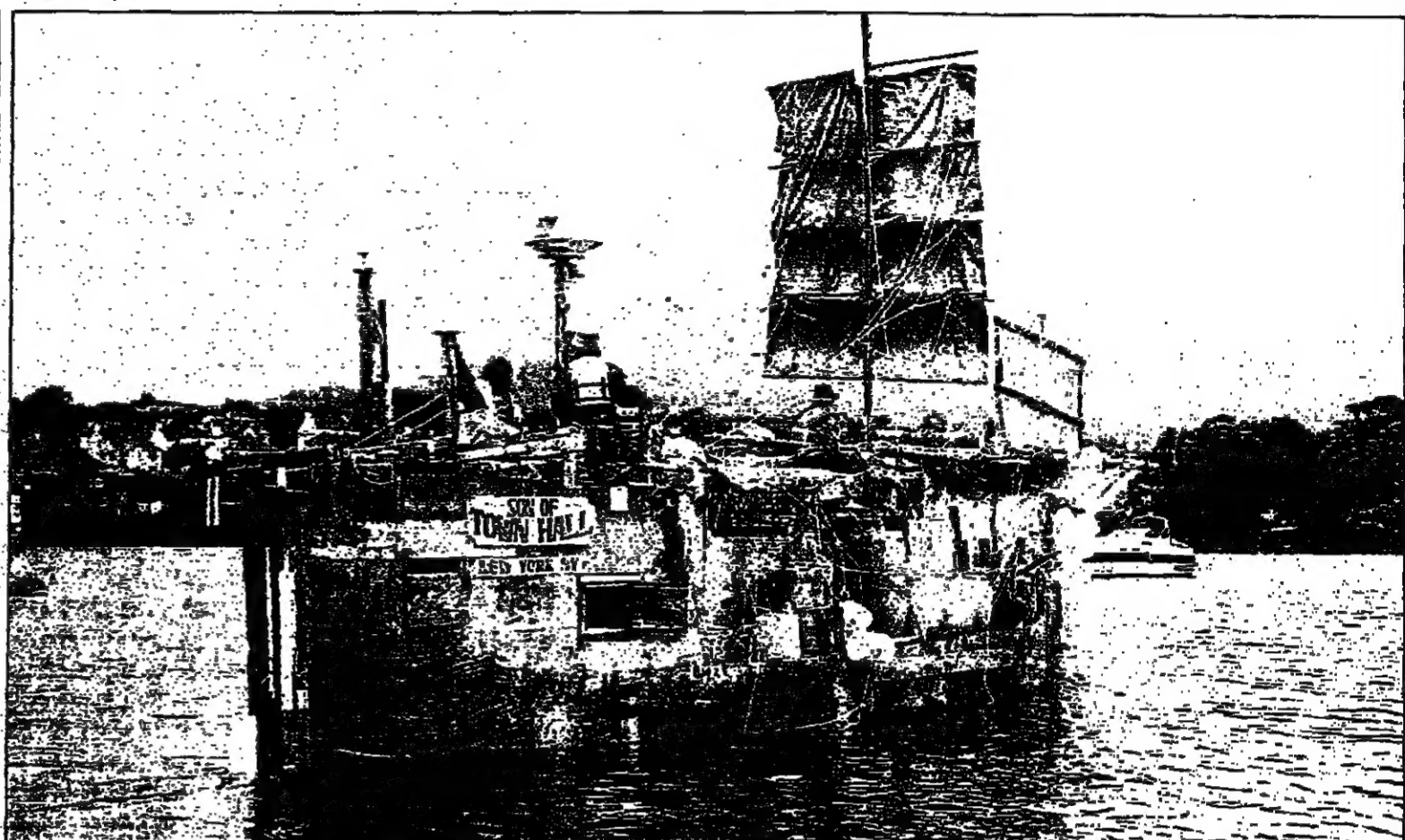
An NEC document reveals that several critical motions have already been submitted, including attacks on suppressing public sector pay awards, cutting lone-parent benefits, raising prescription charges, and failing to introduce a ban on foxhunting.

Andrew Mackinlay, Labour MP for Thurrock, criticised the private sessions as "absurd", claiming they could become like Prime Minister's Questions in the Commons with planted questions.

Matthew Taylor, assistant general secretary of the party and architect of many of the reforms, insisted the conference would not become a rubber stamp for the Government. Mr Taylor said the conference would "remain a final say over policy, delegates would be better informed about policy papers before voting, party members would be more closely involved in drawing up policy, and there would still be resolutions from constituency parties on contemporary issues. "It is not the right of annual conference to become some sort of alternative government."

Late Tom Sawyer, the outgoing party general secretary, wrote to Mr Davies warning her to cease her "concentric campaign of slur and innuendo". Mr Davies, who was blocked by the NEC from standing as a Labour MP in Leeds North East at the last election, had written criticising Labour's use of a telephone ballot which she claimed could be open to abuse.

Party members are being given the choice of voting by post or by ballot. Continued on page 2, col 5



New York's finest flotsam: the raft reaching harbour at Castletownbere, Co Cork, yesterday after crossing the Atlantic in 63 days

Recycled rubbish boat sails the Atlantic

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

FOUR people, two rottweilers and a short-haired Mexican terrier arrived in Ireland yesterday after a 63-day voyage across the Atlantic on a raft made from rubbish discarded by New Yorkers.

The Son of Town Hall docked in Castletownbere, a fishing town in southwest Co Cork, to the amazement of hundreds of locals who gathered on the pier to watch the raggedly-dressed three men and a woman on their ramshackle 50ft vessel.

At the same time, London was welcoming another eccentric craft. A Belgian carpenter navigated his way through daunting waves to reach the Thames estuary in a boat made from 3,200 soft-drink bottles.

The American and Canadian crew, none of whom has any formal sea training, left Newfoundland in June with the hope of arriving in France 30 days later. They were delayed by 25ft waves, gales and icebergs, and were running out of food. They opted to break their journey in Ireland.

"I did not feel we were in danger at any time," Mr Garry said. "The raft could not sink — only break up. I never had a doubt that we would make it." People in Cork were less sure. Michael Harrington, a councillor, said:



Moonen on the Thames with his boat of plastic bottles

"They are crazy. These people risked their lives to cross the Atlantic in something that looks like a garden shed."

Customs officials boarded the vessel yesterday to check the credentials of the skipper and the crew. David Pearman, 65, his wife Betsy, 63, and Roger Doncaster, 44. They were expected to go ashore last night, but officials placed a ban on Thor and Sigfried, three-year-old rottweilers, and Willy, a one-year-old Mexican terrier, as the

on a boat on the Hudson River with his wife and five children. His lawyer, Steven Short, recently described Pearman, who is better known as Poppino, as "the last hippy".

It took two years to build the raft, which was completed in 1994. The crew will spend two weeks in Ireland before going to France. They intend sailing the raft until it falls apart but will not recross the Atlantic on it. Instead, they will build a hot air balloon from scrap in France to carry them back to New York.

A similar fascination with rubbish inspired the pilot of the Belgian vessel, 56-year-old Joz Moonen. He spent two years building it from salvaged plastic Coca-Cola

Continued on page 2, col 1

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Birth choice
Healthy women should be allowed to choose to have their babies by Caesarean section, even if their doctors regard the decision as foolhardy and unnecessary, two leading obstetricians say. Page 5

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Millions switch off British Gas

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

MORE than four million families have deserted British Gas to buy from rival companies.

Three million are already buying gas from other suppliers, and a further million have signed contracts to make the switch, according to Ofgas, the industry watchdog. Dr Eileen Marshall, the deputy regulator, said that some customers could save more than £60 a year by changing.

The dash away from the former monopoly has gathered pace with the expansion of competition across the whole country over the past four months, and BG has now lost more than a fifth of its customers. But the company aims to hit back by selling electricity — and it says that it has already arranged to supply 300,000 homes.

British Gas said: "Obviously we are disappointed when we lose customers, but we believe they will see reasons for staying when they can buy electricity as well."

More than 750,000 households in parts of Yorkshire, Cheshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Scotland will be able to choose their electricity supplier from September 14, when competition among suppliers begins to be phased in. All customers should have a choice of supplier by next June.

Kick-and-tell story puts Hoddle's future in doubt

By Joanna Bale, and Peter Foster

GLENN HODDLE'S future as England coach was being questioned last night as criticism grew that he had breached his players' privacy in a behind-the-scenes book on the World Cup.

Gary Lineker, the former England captain, said it was bizarre to publicly criticise his players. Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, branded Hoddle as unprofessional and said players would now be wary of him.

Hoddle's unflattering account of the behaviour of several members of England's World Cup squad, including Paul Gascoigne, David Beckham and Chris Sutton, breaks the tradition that dressing-room exchanges between players and manager should remain private. He faces a delicate meeting with 30 top players at a get-together at Bisham Abbey on Sunday. They are likely to ask him to justify his actions and convince them that he is fit to remain their mentor for the European Championships in Holland and Belgium in 2000.

Lineker said: "I'm quite amazed that Glenn has been so frank about it, almost to the point of being honest in many ways. Players do not want to read about what they have perhaps said to a manager in a certain



Hoddle challenge

confined situation — a private situation." Taylor said: "Players in the squad will be very wary of Glenn and I don't think it is going to help his relationship with them. This is not the sort of thing we should expect from the England coach."

Hoddle, a committed Christian, almost doubled his £250,000 salary with the £500,000 advance he is thought to have received for the book. The 1998 World Cup Story, by David Davies, the Football Association's director of public affairs, Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, yesterday defended Hoddle's right to keep a record of events. "The fact that this book was being produced has been



"The boss says miss it, it'll make his book more interesting"

public knowledge for many months. Some of the matters are inevitably controversial. I am not aware he has breached any confidences. In a single case where a player has already made public a version of one incident last May, Glenn has sought to explain precisely what happened."

Last night, Hoddle's agent, Dennis Roche, issued a statement on his decision to give details of Gascoigne's rage after he learnt that he had been dropped: "Mr Hoddle decided it was necessary to insert in his book the facts of what had taken place as a result of Paul Gascoigne's explicit article in a national newspaper on June 2."

Hoddle under threat, page 48

Clinton's tears for bomb dead

President Clinton had tears streaming down his face as he led the mourning for ten of the Americans who died in the Nairobi bombing. Both Mr Clinton and Madeleine Albright wept openly as the flag-draped coffins were carried from the plane at Andrews Air Base and the names of the dead were called out against the strains of a band playing *Nearer, My God, to Thee*. Page 15

Yeltsin absent as Russia suffers

Russia's economic crisis deepened as trading on the Moscow stock exchange was again suspended, with shares in free fall. The central bank tried to stem a new run on the rouble by imposing trading restrictions, and the Prime Minister stood by the Government's austerity measures. But the situation was not helped by President Yeltsin's continued absence on holiday. Page 12

Markets turmoil, page 25

Lake tragedy

A Bedfordshire man and his seven-year-old son drowned when their motorboat capsized in Lake Garda. They had clung to the hull and sung to keep awake, but lost their grip and drifted away. The boy's 13-year-old brother is missing, but his mother was rescued. She and three members of another family were in hospital. Page 3

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Ministers champion cause of older workers

Employers to be asked to sign voluntary code of practice on age discrimination, writes Polly Newton

EMPLOYERS will be asked to sign an anti-ageist code of practice as part of the Government's drive to end discrimination against older people in the workplace, it was announced yesterday.

The code will be introduced in the spring after consultation with organisations including the CBI and Age Concern. Andrew Smith, the Employment Minister, said that the Government had not ruled out legislation to outlaw age discrimination but believed that a non-statutory code offered "an early and positive way forward". It had the support of the public, business and organisations representing older people, he said. "I want it to be a user-friendly, practical, straightforward guide that firms see it is in their interests to sign up to because they are going

to be able to access and make the most of a wide pool of talent." Mr Smith was speaking at the Department for Education and Employment published the results of its consultation on age discrimination in employment, which began shortly after the election last year. The 36-page document, *Action on Age*, says that all Govern-

ment departments should take into account the impact on older people of proposed policies. It promises to publish figures every month showing the number of over-50s who are out of work and the number who have found jobs or taken training courses. These will be reviewed annually, beginning next June, to assess how much progress is being

made. From next April, staff at the Employment Service will attend regional seminars to raise their awareness of age discrimination and discuss how to tackle the problem. The Employment Service already has a policy of refusing to display job advertisements if they carry an upper age limit.

Pressure groups campaigning on behalf of older people welcomed the report and the promise of a code of practice. Ruth Jarratt, director of the Employers Forum on Age, said: "Action on Age sends a clear signal to employers that age discrimination must be tackled for the sake of the individual, business and society at large."

Sally Greengross, director general of Age Concern, said that the charity would be involved in drawing up the code of conduct. "It is vital that adequate provisions are made to ensure that no person is discriminated against on the grounds of age."

"All workers must be assessed in the same way with decisions governed by the skills and abilities that person has to offer."

Leading article, page 21

Voyages

Continued from Page 1 and Sprite bottles glued together with silicon bathroom sealant.

The 30ft *Ecotaxi* made the 60-mile voyage from the small town of Nieuwpoort, just south of Ostend, to Tower Bridge in just under 19 hours. The vessel, capable of 23 knots in light seas, has no keel or internal framework, but remains stable by using the water that seeps between the cellular structure of its hull.

Benzine fuel for the twin 25 horsepower outboard engines and the in-board entertainment system — an old car radio hooked up to a pair of speakers — are stored in three rusting chest freezers mounted amidships.

Accommodation is sparse: a two-man tent pitched in the bow section which offers enough cover for Mr Moonen to brew his coffee on a camping stove.

Yesterday, moored up river by Putney Bridge, Mr Moonen, a Flemish speaker, told how he had set sail from Nieuwpoort in calm seas, reaching Ramsgate nine hours later. It was when he rounded the Ramsgate cape and set off along the Kentish Flats towards Queensborough and the Thames estuary that things started to get more exciting. "The waves were this big," said Mr Moonen, pointing to a spot about five feet above his head. "It was very rough."

His confidence in the seaworthiness of the *Ecotaxi* is not shared by his wife, Gerda. She took the Seacat from Ostend to meet her husband and spent a sleepless night on his boat. "She's terrified of the thing," said a friend.

Tories attack Cook's plan for EU forum as 'hypocrisy'

By James Landale, Political Reporter

THE Tories and Liberal Democrats yesterday criticised Robin Cook's proposals to enhance the democratic legitimacy of the European Union by creating a new 'forum' of national parliaments to scrutinise policies from Brussels.

The Foreign Secretary told the *New Statesman* magazine that the forum could bridge the so-called "democratic deficit" by giving parliaments a greater oversight of their governments' European policies.

Michael Howard accused Mr Cook of "gross hypocrisy" for wanting to give Parliament a greater European role at the same time as reducing the Government's power to veto legislation.

The Shadow Foreign Secretary said: "This is yet another example of Labour saying one thing and doing another. Just six weeks after taking office, the Government signed a treaty which removed our national veto in 15 different areas, thus lessening the powers of national governments and national parliaments to resist new European legislation."

Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat Foreign Affairs spokesman, said: "The last thing the EU needs is an extra layer of bureaucracy. Existing EU institutions should instead be made more accountable by giving the

European Parliament greater powers of scrutiny."

Hugh Kerr, the MEP who was expelled from the Labour party in January, said: "These proposals are an insult to all existing British Euro-MPs, particularly the Labour ones. Does Mr Cook really think that when they are in Brussels or Strasbourg they do not have the interests of their constituents and home issues at the forefront?"

However, Sir Leon Brittan, Vice-President of the European Commission, backed Mr Cook's proposals, saying they were similar to his suggestion four years ago for a committee of national parliaments.

"National parliaments, however much they try, don't really follow what's going on in Europe and find it very difficult to do so satisfactorily in order to control the line that their Governments take in Europe," he told the BBC's *Today* programme. "If you had a committee of this kind where they met people from other Parliaments, that would help to do that."

The committee would not be a chamber of the European Parliament but would instead be a separate body to consider whether legislation should be done at a European or at a national level.

Leading article, page 21



David McSavage on the shoulders of supporters outside Edinburgh Sheriff Court

Fury over decision to release killers of policemen

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

POLICE and grieving relatives reacted furiously yesterday to plans by the Irish Government to release IRA terrorists jailed for murdering police officers.

Irish police associations have joined the family of Frank Hand, an officer murdered in 1984, in condemning the decision to grant early release under the terms of the Good Friday agreement to four IRA men who murdered two detectives.

The police and the Hand family want the prisoners to stay in Portlaoise, a high-security prison 50 miles west of Dublin, until they have completed the mandatory 40-year sentence handed down in Ireland to people who kill police officers.

Michael Hand, whose brother was murdered in 1984 as he escorted a post office van through Drumree, Co Meath, said the Government was wrong to apply the approach of Northern Ireland to the Republic. "I would accept that there has to be a compromise and, obviously, Northern Ireland has a very difficult problem."

"However, in my view, the Republic of Ireland was a separate sovereign state. At the time that Frank was shot, the Republic of Ireland was not at war and I find it hard to accept that Frank's killers should be part of the agreement at all."

Dublin has been deliberately vague about the early release of the four IRA police killers — Patrick McPhillips, Thomas Eddles, Brian McShane and Peter Rogers — as it was one of the most difficult aspects of the agreement to sell to the Irish people. However, under pressure from Northern Ireland's Alliance Party, the Government had to admit this week that the release of the four men was inevitable.

The Garda Representative Association, on behalf of 8,500 rank and file Irish police officers, said the Government was making a mistake. John Healy, its president, said: "We are not going to let this matter go away lightly. It is a matter of life and death."

McPhillips, Eddles and McShane were convicted for murdering Mr Hand. Rogers was jailed for the 1980 murder of Seamus Quaid, a detective.

Buccleuch warns of 'tartan euphoria'

A retiring lord-lieutenant yesterday spoke out against Scottish independence and gave a warning of "tartan-curtain euphoria".

The Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, who owns a large estate in the Scottish Borders, said: "As a Scottish nationalist in my heart, but a British nationalist in my head, I am dismayed by proposals that could turn the United Kingdom into a disunited Kingdom. Unless heads can rule hearts, the clock could be turned back 291 years with dire consequences." The duke will retire as Lord-Lieutenant of Roxburgh, Ettrick and Lauderdale on his 75th birthday.

Shorter wait

Hospital waiting lists in Scotland have fallen for the first time in almost two years, Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, announced yesterday. He said they were down by 822 between March 31 and June 30, the first drop since September 1996. "I expect to see further improvement from now on."

Unexpected twin

A woman whose baby suffered brain injuries and died aged seven months after doctors failed to realise she was giving birth to twins is to sue Raigmore Hospital NHS Trust, Inverness. Mhairi Millett, 28, is taking legal action after Sheriff Kenneth Fraser called for an overhaul in maternity procedures.

Design plea

A coroner recommended changes to the design of upright weighing machines as he recorded a verdict of accidental death on Jhordan Stafford, seven, from Macdesfield, Cheshire. The inquest at Warrington was told the boy had been playing on a weighing machine at a leisure centre when it fell on him.

Hard-water risk

Hard water increases the risk of primary school children developing eczema by about a third, according to research by the University of Nottingham published today. Parents may be partly to blame because they insist on washing children frequently. One theory is that chemicals such as calcium are an irritant.

Hostages freed

A couple in their twenties and their baby daughter were held hostage for three days in their flat in St Leonards, East Sussex, by a man armed with a knife. The husband raised the alarm after he was allowed to leave to buy food and the man surrendered to armed police in the early hours of yesterday.

Molly jumps to it

A woman in her seventies is to recreate a parachute jump performed by her mother, 90 years ago. With the help of the Parachute Regiment Molly Sedgewick, 78, plans to jump in tandem with one of the freefall team, to commemorate the first recorded mid-air rescue, performed by her mother, Dolly, in 1908.

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Courthouse stages a Fringe sideshow

By Shirley English

EDINBURGH Sheriff Court became the venue for a Fringe sideshow yesterday when an Irish comedian faced breach of the peace charges.

The performance did not receive Fringe billing, but the publicity aroused by Mr McSavage's arrest on Sunday for shouting "penis" and threatening to set his genitals alight during his outdoor show on the Royal Mile drew a sizeable audience.

However, no record of Mr McSavage's case could be found and the action was

dismissed. The crowd cheered and Mr McSavage, 32, the son of David Andrews, the Irish Foreign Minister, was carried out shoulder-high.

News of his arrest has propelled Mr McSavage to celebrity status in Edinburgh. His musical comedy at the Southside venue is selling out, and he has been asked to appear on Ireland's top-rated *The Late Late Show* with Gay Byrne. "I feel like giving the policemen who arrested me a big bunch of flowers," he said.

Festival reviews, page 34

Cash boost for 'super GPs'

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

A HANDFUL of "super surgeries" that stay open late and at weekends to provide a wide range of GP services will be eligible for extra cash from a new £10 million fund. Ministers are to set up a new fund for so-called "beacon" primary care groups, or centres of excellence, that give patients easier access to GPs and hospital services.

GPs who open their surgeries to patients at anti-social hours, do minor surgery, offer consultant clinics and liaise with social services to ensure that patients do not clog up hospital beds, will be able to

apply for awards of hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Ministers are keen to encourage GPs to extend their hours, reduce surgery waiting times and reduce the time for hospital referrals. They also want to see more health centres that provide a range of services, such as a pharmacy, dental treatment, dentists, social workers and mental health care.

The primary care group would also be expected to provide services such as physiotherapy, blood tests and diagnostic examinations to avoid hospital referrals. To

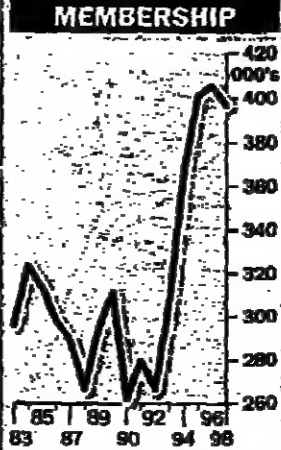
day Alan Milburn, the Health Minister, will announce new guidelines for the 480 primary care groups that will replace GP fundholding from next April. He will suggest that extra resources should be used to reward "best practice".

The new "beacon" fund is not expected to be announced until October, but ministerial sources made clear last night that GPs who won extra money would be expected to spread best practice.

Ministers expect about half a dozen primary care "beacons" to become the trailblazers.

Blair facing rank and file's anger

LABOUR PARTY MEMBERSHIP



Continued from page 1 post or by telephone. In her letter, sent to key party officials and senior left-wing MPs, she wrote: "I wish to register an immediate objection to the inclusion of telephone voting, which I believe is open to manipulation and abuse, and which may compromise the final result, whatever it may be."

She asked for an immediate reassurance that telephone voting would not be permitted. "As far as I am aware, the provision for telephone voting has never been authorised or specifically approved by the NEC. If this is not the case, please send me a copy of the

appropriate minutes." But Mr Sawyer leapt to the defence of Unity Security Balloting, the company conducting the telephone poll. "This sort of allegation is only the latest in what appears to be a concerted campaign of slur and innuendo aimed at party staff and others," he said.

Ms Davies criticised Mr Sawyer for releasing her letter, denying that she was slurring party employees and claiming his intervention was inappropriate. Party officials said that there had been telephone voting in the poll on changing Clause Four of the party's constitution and there had

been no evidence of any bias. Mr Benn wrote to Gordon Brown accusing him of having an "industrial policy" and of trying to protect the rich. Mr Benn told the Chancellor that he was personally responsible for weakening British manufacturing through high interest rates.

"The huge pay rises awarded to top businessmen, who at the same time are demanding wage restraint, and the fact that you have ruled out tax increases on the highest earners to claw some of that money back, suggest that the protection of the rich is one of the Government's main objectives," Mr Benn wrote.

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campaign is freed

Father and son die in holiday boating tragedy

Three family members drifted into the night after clinging to upturned hull. Richard Owen reports

A FATHER and his young son drowned after their rented motorboat capsized in a storm on Lake Garda in northern Italy.

They had clung to the upturned hull with another family, singing songs in an effort to stay awake, but lost their grip and drifted away in the early hours of the morning. The boy's brother is missing and also feared dead.

Police at Desenzano di Garda, the largest town at the southern end of the lake, named the dead man as Richard Harris, 50, believed to be from the village of Renhold in Bedfordshire. The bodies of him and his son Luke, 7, have been found. Mr Harris's wife, Catherine, was rescued and is in intensive care. Last night police in helicopters and patrol boats were still searching for their other son, Timothy, 13.

The Harrises had gone boating with three members of a family from Aberdeen, the Lileys, all of whom were rescued with Mrs Harris yesterday after spending a night in the water. They are all being treated for exposure in Desenzano hospital.

Jane Liley, who stayed at her family's hotel while her husband, John, 43, and children Andrew, 14, and Alison, 12, went on the boat trip, described her family's ordeal yesterday.

"They were just holding on to the upside down boat all night," she told BBC Radio



Survivors John Liley and his son Andrew



Scotland. "They sang and chatted and basically tried to keep each other awake. They were all on there, to begin with. They were trying to hold on to the others, as well. They tried very hard to support them but it just didn't work."

She went on: "The water was warm but the air was cold. Eventually some sort of

boat picked them up. They drifted right down the lake and then they were picked up by the boat."

She said that the survivors were "shocked" and in hospital, but with no serious injury.

Massimo Belizari, a police spokesman, said that the search for Timothy Harris would continue as long as the light lasted and, if necessary, would be resumed today.

Signor Belizari said that the seven people had boarded the boat at Limone, towards the north of the lake, at 4pm on Wednesday. "At around 5pm a storm blew up and the boat was overturned," he said. "The water being warm at this time of year had helped the survivors, who were rescued by workers cleaning the lake yesterday morning. The bodies of Mr Harris and his son were found later."

The authorities said they had received several distress calls from other vessels in trouble on Wednesday. The lake, east of Milan, is a popular tourist site for swimming and boating.

A spokesman for the British Consulate in Milan said: "The weather has been very hot recently and so when a storm came we thought it would be a bad one. The wind was apparently very strong and caused massive waves."

"It seems the boat simply turned over. They didn't know what had hit them."

The Harris family had travelled to Italy with First Choice Holidays. They were staying Limone sul Garda, a picturesque resort of stone houses and cobbled streets popular with British and German visitors. A company spokeswoman said that the motorboat had been independently hired.

The Foreign Office confirmed the details provided by Italian police and said that relatives had been informed.



Marie Allen, her partner Steven O'Malley and their baby Shannon were killed in the crash, along with Reece, 5, top, and Laura, 8

Car crash mother was pregnant with twins

By Peter Foster

A MOTHER who died with her partner and three children in a car crash was five months pregnant with twin boys.

Marie Allen, 30, Steven O'Malley, 43, and Laura Allen, 5, Reece Allen, 5, and one-year-old Shannon O'Malley died when their convertible car clipped a coach on the A16 near Louth, Lincolnshire, and rolled into a ditch, bursting into flames.

Chris Charman, a neighbour in Brinkhill, near Louth, said: "The kids were just lovely - playful, happy and

cheerful. I can still see the little one shouting at me over the fence. I looked out the window this morning and saw all their toys in the garden and had to look away again. It was too sad."

Mrs Charman and her husband, Bob, said that the family had moved to the village a year ago, from Rotherham, South Yorkshire. She spoke to them less than an hour before the accident on Wednesday evening. "They phoned us at five o'clock and asked us to pick their milk up from the shop."

She added that Ms Allen had only recently had her pregnancy con-

firmed. "She showed me the scan picture of the boys. This is just awful."

Laura and Reece attended Tetford Primary School in a neighbouring village to Brinkhill, which amounts only to a cluster of houses with a shop and a telephone box. Mrs Charman said: "It is just too horrible to think about. I am still thinking they are going to come back now."

Police were continuing to sift through the wreckage yesterday. Dental records were used to identify several of the bodies.

The crash, on a single carriageway road, injured 37 people on the coach,

which was returning from a day trip to Skegness. Most of the injuries were minor, but one person with more serious injuries had to be flown to hospital in Lincoln, and was reported to be in a stable condition last night.

The coach was owned by Price International Travel, based in Halesowen, near Birmingham. David Price, the owner, said an inquiry would be conducted as a matter of course.

Police said that the coach driver had given a negative breath test for alcohol.



The motorboat yesterday, stored in a police compound

Boy engulfed in flames by birthday party fire act

By Richard Duce

A BOY celebrating his 12th birthday with a party yesterday described how he saved a friend who was engulfed in flames when a fire-juggling act went wrong.

Liam Voller and his guests were enjoying the entertainment in the garden when a bowl of methylated spirit being used by the juggler exploded. A fireball engulfed seven-year-old Sam McLaren. As it burned his hair and face, Liam rolled him on the ground to put out the flames. He said it was a lesson he had learnt with the Cub Scouts.

Sam was taken to hospital with his mother, Wendy McLaren, 30, and their neighbour, Jane Bennett, 31, Liam's aunt, who was hosting the party at her house in Dover, Kent, on Wednesday evening. None of their injuries was said to be life-threatening.

Liam, who is 12 today, said: "Everyone was having a really good time when the juggler poured something into a bowl and suddenly there were flames everywhere. Sam was

shouting he was on fire and me and a friend jumped on him and pushed him to the ground. We rolled him on the floor and were hitting his head to put the flames out."

"I learnt it at Cubs where we did first aid. I wasn't scared at the time but I felt a bit scared afterwards. Wendy and my aunt were also hurt and we wrapped them off in duvets until the ambulance came."

A senior fire officer in Dover last night praised Liam for doing "a marvellous job."

Mrs Bennett staged the party, complete with bouncy castle and the children's entertainer, Alan Leigh, to mark Liam's birthday and that of Stacey McLaren, who was 11 last Monday. There were around 20 children and adults present when the accident happened.

Donna Hair, a neighbour, said: "There was a big whoosh and flames blew back into the audience's faces. The children were in a real state, they were screaming and shouting and a lot of them were shaking."

Liam did really well, he jumped on Sam and put the flames out. The entertainer was stunned and he also then helped put the flames out."

Mrs Bennett was last night said to be comfortable in the specialist burns unit at Queen Victoria Hospital in East Grinstead, West Sussex. Sam and his mother are recovering at St Andrew's Hospital in Billericay, Essex, which specialises in treatment for people who have inhaled smoke and flame.

A police spokeswoman said the incident was being treated as an accident. "This guy, who we believe to be a professional entertainer, appears to have spilt some fluid which has ignited and blown across the lawn into three people." Dover District Council said it would be carrying out an investigation to see whether the juggler had infringed the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Mr Leigh, from Dover, was said to be "devastated" by the incident and could not be contacted for comment.

Stalker accused of renewed campaign is freed by court

By Claudia Joseph

A FALKLANDS war veteran, who became the first stalker to be jailed for inflicting psychological grievous bodily harm, walked free from court yesterday after being accused again of harassing his victim.

Anthony Burrows, whose campaign against Tracey Sant, now Morgan, led to last year's Protection from Harassment Act, was bound over to keep the peace for 12 months after being charged again with causing grievous bodily harm. Judge Stanley Spence ordered the charge to lie on file after the prosecution admitted there was insufficient evidence against Burrows, 38.

Miss Morgan sat at the back of Reading Crown Court in tears as Burrows, a former naval petty officer, was freed. When she saw him in front of her outside the court, she



Morgan leaves court in tears after seeing Burrows

turned to her family and said: "I'm imprisoned here now. I can't go out. If he sees me now, he'll get a kick out of that."

The court was told that Miss Morgan, 30, who was then married, befriended Burrows when they worked together in 1992 at HMS

Collingwood naval base in Hampshire. However, the friendship soon became unwanted. Paul Reid, for the prosecution, said.

Burrows, who was jailed for three years in 1996, was freed on licence in June 1997. In January 1998 Miss Morgan received a birthday card believed to be from him.

After reports that he was stalking her again, Miss Morgan returned to psychiatric treatment. Burrows was arrested after he was spotted outside her mother's home in Crowthorne, Berkshire.

However, yesterday he was freed after Mr Reid told the court that the Crown had asked for the case to lie on file because there was insufficient evidence to prove beyond reasonable doubt he had caused "her latest bout of distress". He said that Miss Morgan understood the reason for the decision.



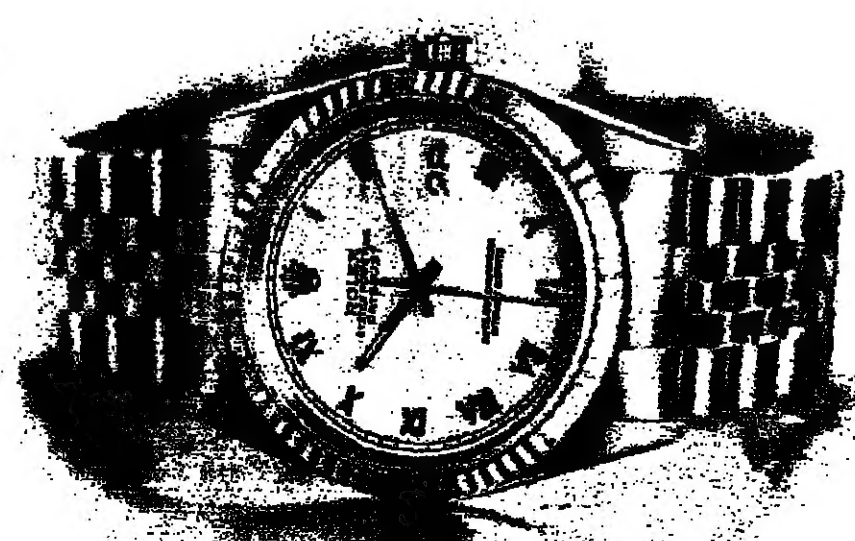
YO-YO MA BELIEVES THE BEST INSTRUMENTS ARE ITALIAN, MADE IN THE EARLY EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

YET HE HAS DELIBERATELY CHOSEN ONE THAT IS SWISS, MADE IN THE LATE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

He has been called the greatest cellist of his generation. And he plays on two of the greatest instruments created in any generation: the Davidoff Stradivarius, dated 1712, and a Montagnana made in Venice in 1733. "They have different voices," he explains, describing the Stradivarius as "more like a great clarinet, more tenor, while the Montagnana is more like a baritone, more earthy, like a Burgundy. But which I choose is up to my mood..." On the subject of his third instrument, the Rolex chronometer which accompanies him everywhere, Yo-Yo Ma is equally candid.

"I just love it," he says. "You can use it for any occasion."

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Doctors call for right to choose Caesarean birth

HEALTHY women must be allowed to have their babies by Caesarean section if they want, however foolish or irrational their decision may seem to their doctors, according to two leading specialists.

The specialists argue in two separate papers published today in the *British Medical Journal* that a sea-change is under way in medical attitudes to Caesareans. While any request for one has traditionally been refused, there is a growing belief that the procedure can no longer be seen as clinically unjustifiable.

"We are at a turning point in obstetric thinking," writes Sara Paterson-Brown, consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology at Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital in London. That had been brought about by advances in making Caesareans safe, by evidence of "substantial morbidity" with normal births, and by changes in the attitudes of society which has become intolerant of risk.

A recent survey of women obstetricians in London found that 31 per cent of them would choose to have a Caesarean, rather than a normal birth if they had an uncomplicated singleton pregnancy. Eighty per cent of those who would prefer the operation said they were frightened of the injuries that they knew they could suffer during a normal delivery.

Miss Paterson-Brown says that a recent study of what happens during different types of births "challenges some deep-rooted obstetric and midwifery teachings". Evidence showing the balance of benefit versus harm between Caesarean and other deliveries was incomplete but "it challenges the dogma that vaginal delivery is almost always better". She says that a

Specialists say women should have what they want, however foolish, writes Ian Murray

normal delivery can cause greater damage to the pelvic floor and worse incontinence than among women who have a Caesarean. There was a one in 1,500 risk of a baby weighing over 3lb 6oz dying during or shortly after normal deliveries, 10 per cent of cerebral palsy cases occurred during labour. Once a baby is overdue there was a one in 600 chance of it dying.

These problems are all avoided by a Caesarean, which carries its own but different risks. Women who ask for a Caesarean must be given all the facts and then allowed to make up their own minds, Miss Paterson-Brown says.

"We encourage family planning and pre-pregnancy counselling, we routinely perform antenatal screening, and we offer prenatal diagnosis, all of which are unnatural and promote the concept of a designer baby. Can we do all this and then refuse a woman a safe mode of delivery that removes the gambles associated with labour and which she personally finds acceptable?"

She says that she expected only a very small proportion of women would opt for a Caesarean if they were healthy, but the choice had to

be there provided they were fully informed of all the risks. A Caesarean birth costs the NHS about £2,500, against £1,500 for a normal delivery.

In another paper *Obstetrics*, Anna, specialist registrar in obstetrics at the Leicester General Hospital, says that women's requests for a particular delivery for fear of consequences of the other mode were not always rational.

Choice needed to be informed but ultimately "competent women are free to decline medical advice and treatment for rational or irrational reasons, or for no reason, even if as a consequence they or their foetus suffer death or injury".

He adds: "If a Caesarean section is the preferred mode of delivery by the mother, her choice, however foolish or irrational, must be respected." Anne Jackson-Baker, director of the English board of the Royal College of Midwives, agreed. A woman's right to choose was paramount, she said. "Provided she is in possession of all the facts, if she decides she doesn't want to go through labour then we must respect that decision, even though midwives would naturally prefer the mother to have a normal birth."

The rate for Caesareans has tripled in the last 25 years from 4.5 per cent in 1970 to 16 per cent today and it is still rising. Over 100,000 women in Britain have a Caesarean every year and it is now the most commonly performed operation on women.

In the United States up to a third of all births in some areas are now by Caesarean section. Women's groups have blamed doctors' fear of litigation for the increase. In Italy, where women's choice must be respected by law, 4 per cent choose to have a Caesarean.



Sara Paterson-Brown with new babies at Queen Charlotte's, London, yesterday

Unwise move in a normal pregnancy



THE late Sir Eardley Lance- lot Holland, the doyen of obstetricians in my youth, would have been shocked to hear that 31 per cent of female obstetricians in London would choose to have a Caesarean section.

Nor would he have been able to believe that a consultant from Queen Charlotte's — the arbiter in all matters of midwifery and where he was once a member of staff — should suggest that a well-informed NHS patient should be allowed to choose her own method of delivery.

The statement from Sara Paterson-Brown is one of the most revolutionary of this generation. To the Treasury, which would have to foot the bill, it must be sweat-making.

Miss Paterson-Brown is no hypocrite: she must be aware that what is considered the best for her colleagues should be offered to patients. Furthermore, she must know that, once Caesars became acceptably safe, most obstetricians capitulated to forceful private patients who wanted one. She is now offering to her NHS patients the service that private patients have received.

But the woman with a

normal pregnancy would be unwise to prefer a Caesar. Women cannot just be unzipped: Caesars become more difficult with each subsequent baby. The internal tissue around the bladder becomes progressively scarred and contracted. Caesars are not free of complications, including maternal death, and they do not necessarily protect against later genital prolapse, although this becomes much less likely.

Women should realise that, if they are forceful, the pregnancy is uncomplicated, the staff well trained and an ambulatory epidural is available, delivery can be painless and they will feel better after it than after a Caesar.

Parents worry whether their babies' academic future will be jeopardised by anaesthesia and a Caesarean. A study a few years ago showed that the optimum time and method of delivery in relation to later academic life is a Caesar between 37 and 38 weeks. After this, a proportion of babies suffer by being minimally inadequately nourished through the placenta.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

US baby helps to save life of cancer boy, 2

By PAUL WILKINSON

A BOY aged two is recovering from a rare blood cancer after he was given cells from the umbilical cord of a baby in America. Doctors say it is the first time cells from an unrelated donor have been used in Britain.

Jake Parkin has juvenile chronic myeloid leukaemia, which is rare at his age. There is a 60 per cent cure rate with chemotherapy, but, after he failed to respond, doctors at the Children's Hospital in Sheffield decided he needed a transplant of stem cells extracted from a baby's umbilical

cord, which trigger the growth of new blood cells and develop the immune system.

A tissue match could not be found in Britain, but, after days of searching, a 95 per cent match was found 4,000 miles away in St Louis, Missouri. Doctors sent just 150ml, effectively a syringe, in a refrigerated container.

The Sheffield team, led by Ajay Vora, a consultant haematologist, are hoping the ground-breaking treatment will prove successful. Jake's mother, Cheryl Parkin, from Sheffield, said: "It just seemed

so amazing that this one syringe of blood could be so important to Jake's survival. For us, it was the start of the rest of Jake's life."

"Now we are having trouble holding Jake down. He thinks his hospital bed is a trampoline and is desperate to get out of isolation and on to the ward to play with some new toys."

He will be allowed home soon, but must return for regular check-ups. Dr Vora said: "Stem cells are important to the new growth of blood cells and the immune system and it is these stem cells which are found in a high concentration in the umbilical cord of a newborn baby."

This is the first time such a cord blood transplant has been carried out in the United Kingdom from an unrelated donor. Since the transplant, blood tests have been taken daily and the first indications are hopeful.

Mrs Parkin and her husband, John, first realised Jake, their only child, was ill in March. He was admitted to an emergency to the hospital and they were told he had leukaemia the next day. He was given intensive chemotherapy treatment, but it did not work.



Cheryl Parkin with Jake, who is on the road to recovery

Offenders could serve half probation order

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

OFFENDERS could serve only half their probation orders under a plan to deal with financial cutbacks, extra work and rising staff vacancies in the Probation Service.

Managers have been told to consider discharging at the halfway stage all probation orders if there has been no breach or further offending since the court imposed the order. The measures are planned by the North East London Probation Service, which has faced difficulties since a cut of £250,000 in its £10 million budget this year and an increase in the individual caseloads of its officers.

A memo from the service's deputy chief probation officer, Richard Baldwin, calls on managers to ensure that all probation orders and orders combining probation with community service be considered for discharge at the

halfway stage. It also calls for pre-sentence court reports recommending supervision for criminals to specify shorter orders wherever possible.

Offenders are to be placed on community service projects without an initial interview by a community service officer, but after a risk assessment carried out by an unit manager. Probation Service managers will take their recommendations to discharge probation orders to the courts for a final decision. At present they have the power to go to a court to seek early termination of an order if an offender has made progress and not reoffended.

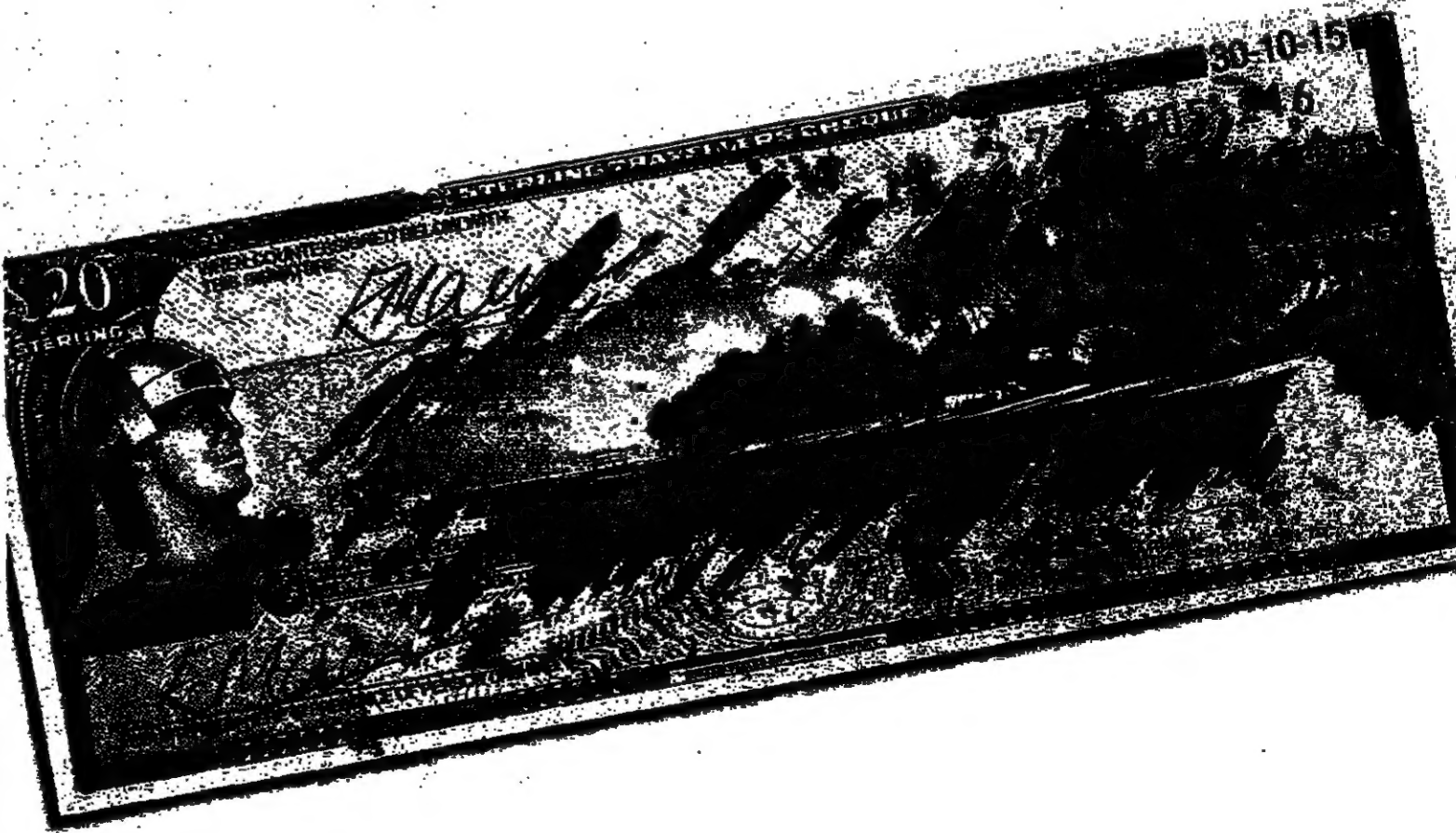
Last night a Home Office spokeswoman criticised the proposals: "It is not a responsible attitude for the Probation Service, but it would be for the judge to say if an order was to be discharged."

But Mr Baldwin defended his service's proposals: "We have got a situation where workloads are increasing, resources are tight and tasks are also increasing."

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said his members' workload had increased by up to 50 per cent in two years. "Nationally the service has lost over 600 staff, so it is little wonder that some drastic measures have to be resorted to."

CORRECTION

Two of the photographs in yesterday's obituaries page, those of Henri Ziegler and Isidore Kerman, were transposed. We apologise for the error.



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Teachers warned not to rub sunscreen on pupils

TEACHERS were advised yesterday to refuse to apply sunscreen to children in their care because of the risks of being accused of sexual abuse.

In guidelines to be issued to education authorities, the Local Government Association said that, even with parental consent, teachers should not apply sunburn lotion. Besides, the association added, the time taken to apply the sunscreen would cut into lesson time.

Ivor Widdeson, education officer for the association, said: "Teachers' reluctance is well-founded. This whole issue must be subject to the most careful consideration because school teachers are very vulnerable to accusations of physical and sexual abuse."

The advice goes on to say that pupils of mainstream school age, from five to 18, "are capable of self-administration of sunscreen products".

The association was prompted to offer the advice after the Health Education Authority found that many primary school teachers were reluctant to help pupils to protect themselves from the sun because they thought they were not permitted to do so

Fears of sexual abuse allegations prompt guidelines for education authorities, says Victoria Fletcher

under the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981. In its attempt to create guidelines for the Department of Health's sun awareness campaign, the authority sought the advice of the local authorities' umbrella body.

However, the authority was surprised by the association's response. A spokesman said: "We were hoping they would come round, as children are in the sun at the hottest time of the day. But their advice has been surprising and does not help us to advise on protecting children."

Teaching unions described the comments as extreme. Olwyn Gunn, education secretary for the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "It is very extreme indeed. Teachers are carers and are attempting to establish relations with young children, and we would not advise our teachers to refuse to administer

cream. However, we cannot dismiss the position teachers are in concerning allegations. Just one accusation and they are suspended, and there have been enough such cases to make teachers worried."

Margaret Morrissey, from the National Conference of Parent and Teacher Associations, said the advice was one step too far. Teachers should act in loco parentis and if the parents gave permission for sun protection to be administered, it was unwise not to do so. "The LGA are out of order on this. They are basically saying that in the nice weather they must keep the pupils indoors because they can't risk protecting them so they can play outdoors. We understand the legal risks, but it is not a problem we have ever had."

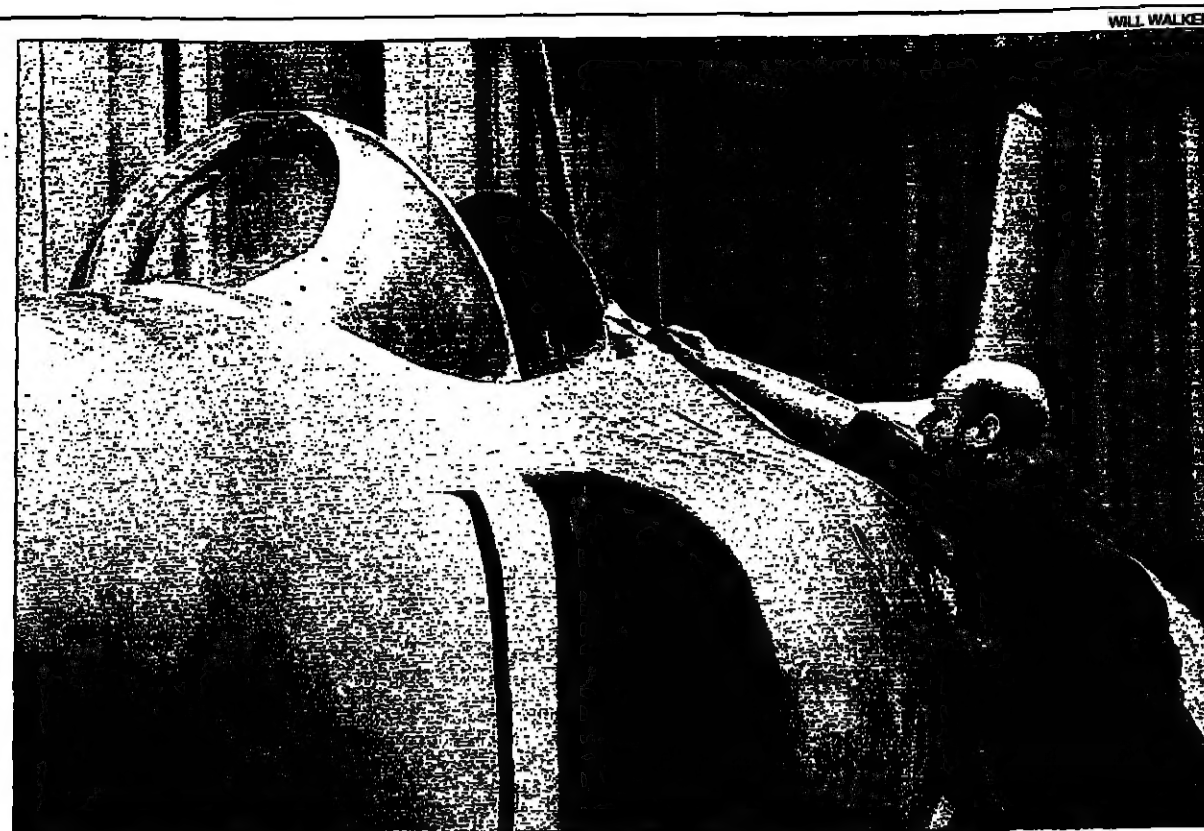
"Children as young as five can't put cream on themselves and they need help. Parents need to know when they leave their children at the school

gates that they are being properly looked after and helped if it is hot weather."

Martin Pilkington, the head of legal member services for the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said he had never come across a case against a teacher based around a sunscreen incident. "We recognise the importance of children being properly protected from the sun. Small children cannot apply sunscreen themselves, so it has to be up to the teachers. We would, however, advise teachers to apply it in the presence of another member of staff."

Yesterday the Department for Education and Employment said it would not be issuing guidelines on sunscreen. A spokesman said: "How much can we advise on? Whether to wipe the running noses of children, too? We cannot go this far on everything, as these issues are left to local education authorities as the employers of the teachers." Last year there were 117 allegations of child abuse made against teachers in the NASUWT. Of these, 91 have so far proved unfounded.

Education, page 40



Craig Blundred restoring the Supermarine Swift that took the world air-speed record but was sold as scrap

Farnborough salutes rescued RAF jet with world-class past

By PAUL WILKINSON

A JET fighter that once held the world air-speed record for Britain will go on show next month after being rescued from a scrapyard.

Thousands of visitors to the 50th Farnborough Air Show, which opens on September 9, will have their first chance to see the restored aircraft, although it cannot be flown.

The Supermarine Swift entered the record books in 1953 when its test pilot, Mike Lithgow, flew at 737.3mph over the Libyan Desert. Mr Lithgow was killed ten years later while test-flying a BAC 1-11 airliner.

The single-seater jet was sold by the RAF when Swifts became obsolete in the early 1960s, but over the past few years, 15 volunteers have been working part-time to return it to its former glory. Although not airworthy, it will otherwise arrive at Farnborough in the same condition as when it was a frontline fighter in the 1950s.

The team has replaced panels on the undercarriage, reshaped the damaged nose cone and refitted the cockpit canopy. Holes along the



Mike Lithgow flew the Swift at 737.3mph over the Libyan Desert in 1953



to Washington. At first it was put in storage as nobody was available to work on its renovation, but over the past few years, 15 volunteers have been working part-time to return it to its former glory. Although not airworthy, it will otherwise arrive at Farnborough in the same condition as when it was a frontline fighter in the 1950s.

The team has replaced panels on the undercarriage, reshaped the damaged nose cone and refitted the cockpit canopy. Holes along the

sides have been filled in, the fuselage repainted in the colours of the time and new instruments put in.

Craig Blundred, 29, one of the volunteers, said: "Two of the museum's people were in Manchester looking for other aircraft when they stumbled across the Swift in the wrecker's yard. It was in terrible condition, barely recognisable. In the 1960s, planes were put out to tender as scrap when the Services stopped using them. It was before aircraft preservation became the major issue it is today."

"The jet was built in Southampton by Supermarine, the company that built the Spitfire. Its RAF career was undistinguished and it was quickly downgraded from a fighter to a reconnaissance plane. Mr Blundred said: "It was not successful in military terms because it was dogged by technical problems. It was part of the postwar jet fighter boom and an important step in the history of the British fighter."

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Poet's brother arrested over damage to grave

Family expresses anger after fragments of headstone are found in an Irish bog, reports Audrey Magee

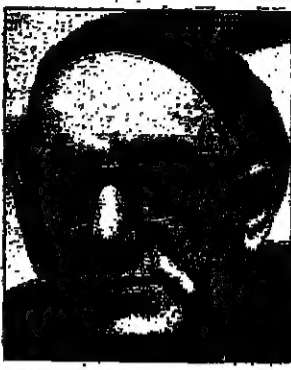
THE 32-year-old brother of the Irish poet Patrick Kavanagh was arrested after the shattered fragments of the writer's headstone were found buried in a bog.

Peter Kavanagh was questioned by police for several hours about the headstone, which vanished from the poet's grave in Co Monaghan this week and was replaced with a simple wooden cross and a pile of stones.

Sources said that police found the missing headstone, weighing more than half a tonne, in a bog near the Kavanagh family home in Inniskeen. It had been broken into small fragments with a jump hammer and chisel.

Dr Kavanagh, a lecturer in the United States who is on holiday in Ireland, declined to comment during his interrogation by police at Carrickmacross and was released on Wednesday night without charge. His American son-in-law, Alan Baer, 34, was also arrested and released without charge.

The incident has provoked fury in the poet's extended family, many of whom are deeply upset at the desecration of the grave, where the writer's



Kavanagh: he expressed wish for a simple grave

wife, Catherine, also lies. Eunan O'Hallpin, a nephew of Mrs Kavanagh, said that many family members and friends were profoundly shocked at the destruction of the headstone, which was erected by a commemoration committee "with no heroic-sounding tomb".

Dr Kavanagh was not available for comment yesterday, but has repeatedly denied any involvement with the alteration of the grave. The police are continuing to investigate the case and may send a file to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

1960s and married in the spring of 1967; the poet died on November 30 that year. Kavanagh was buried in one of three family plots in Inniskeen, where a simple cross was erected by his brother, who had looked after him.

Dr Kavanagh, who wrote *My Brother's Keeper*, detailing his experiences of caring for the poet, was understood to have been deeply upset when a committee of Kavanagh trustees replaced a cross on his grave with an elaborate headstone after the poet's wife died and was buried in the family plot in 1989.

Dr Kavanagh kept the cross in the garden of the family home, insisting that it was the most fitting tribute to his brother, who had written shortly before dying that he wished to be commemorated modestly, "with no heroic-sounding tomb".

Dr Kavanagh was not available for comment yesterday, but has repeatedly denied any involvement with the alteration of the grave. The police are continuing to investigate the case and may send a file to the Director of Public Prosecutions.



A DARKAGE canoe being examined by Stuart Bacon, of the Suffolk Underwater Studies Unit, after its discovery by fishermen off the coast near Dunwich. The 17th century dugout weighs more than a quarter of a tonne and could date back 1,200 years. Although it was dredged up by a trawler at

sea, the site where it was found was once several miles inland and experts say that the canoe would have been used on lakes and rivers in East Anglia. Mr Bacon said: "This is a very important find of national significance. Although it has been buried for centuries, it is in remarkably good condition."

We know from history that the site was once several miles inland, so it was not a sea-going boat. It would have been used on the Broad as long ago as the 8th century. The dugout will now be preserved and stabilised before going on display in a local museum.

MS woman may move for drug treatment

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN suffering from multiple sclerosis is considering moving house against her doctor's orders to live in an area where she can be given an expensive, controversial drug which she hopes could improve her condition.

Jacky Boswell, 47, lives at Sawston, a village in the area covered by the Cambridge and Huntingdon Health Authority. She wants to be prescribed beta interferon, a drug costing £10,000 a year per patient, which helps to reduce the frequency and severity of attacks in some patients.

The authority, however, because of the cost of the drug and the lack of conclusive evidence that it is effective for all patients, is refusing to provide it for Mrs Boswell.

Steve Clarke, the acting chief executive, said: "The authority has considered its position on beta interferon on a number of occasions over the last two years and our judgment has been that in the light of growing demands on our resources, we can't fund it."

The authority, which refused to continue to provide leukaemia treatment to "Child B", is one of only five out of the 100 English authorities that does not fund beta interferon treatment.

£3m fraud team managed only one prosecution

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

A TEAM of fraud investigators was criticised by the Audit Commission yesterday after allegations that its members spent too much time playing cards and "swimming around in new BMWs".

Investigations by the 20-strong unit, given a £3 million three-year budget to tackle organised benefit fraud, resulted in only one prosecution, the commission found. It said it took the London Organised Benefit Investigation Team 16 months to get started and criticised it for poor record-keeping and management.

In a report yesterday the commission said that, from 98 referrals, the team had so far stopped benefits to two individuals. Five were referred to other agencies and 36 were rejected. No search warrants had been executed, and there were no records of numbers of people involved in prosecutions, records seized or where benefit was stopped but without prosecution.

However, the report said the pilot scheme should be extended for a further three years once its management structure had been improved.

The Loft scheme, set up in April 1996, is funded by the Department of Social Services but managed by the Association of London Government.

It was investigated after a tip-off from Alan Williams, Labour MP for Swansea West, who was given details of the allegations in an anonymous letter.

Auditors found the team had spent £138,000 on leased cars for surveillance operations — including Rovers, Audis and Renault Lagunas — which were used privately. One vehicle was used almost exclusively by the team manager who was not involved in teamwork.

Mr Williams said yesterday: "We are virtually two years into a three-year pilot study and little has happened." The Association of London Government said the allegations had come from a disgruntled ex-employee. A spokesman denied that staff sat around playing cards during work hours, but said "there were a couple of occasions when they played cards during their lunch hour."

He claimed that Loft had secured three successful prosecutions. A further 20 arrests had been made, with one operation under way involving housing benefit and mortgage fraud of £1.7 million. However, staff had used cars and mobile phones for private use — a practice that had now been stopped.

Police find murder weapon

By PAUL WILKINSON

DETECTIVES have found a weapon they believe was used to batter a trainee teacher to death.

Twenty-five officers are searching for John Thompson, the owner of the house where Rachel Tough, 18, was found on Tuesday evening. His description and details of the murder have been circulated across the country.

Superintendent John Blake, who is leading the inquiry, said: "We are looking at various ways of tracing the homeowner as he has not been in touch."

Miss Tough, a student at the Derwentside training college in Consett, Co Durham, was found in Mr Thompson's kitchen on the Moorside council estate in the town. His wife, Michelle, and the two youngest of their three sons found the body when they returned home on Tuesday evening.

Miss Tough, who lived six doors away, had suffered a series of blows about the head. Police have not disclosed what the murder weapon was.

Mr Blake said that the motive for the crime was not clear and he was not sure why the victim was in the house.

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Waif-like women have a lean time of it with men

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MEN find curvaceous women more attractive than waif-like supermodels, psychologists have discovered. Given the choice between a woman who is underweight and one who is overweight, most males prefer the latter.

"If a young woman gains a stone it doesn't diminish her appeal very much, but if she loses a stone she becomes very unattractive very quickly," said Martin Tovée, of Newcastle University's Psychology Department, who conducted the study published in *The Lancet* today.

The psychologists showed pictures of 50 women to 40 male undergraduates and, after analysing their reactions to the range of shapes and sizes, discovered that very thin women were a turn-off, even those with perfectly proportioned figures. Perceived wisdom has it that the "optimum of attractiveness" is a waist

measurement that is 70 per cent of the hip measurement.

Dr Tovée, who specialises in treating eating disorders, said that evolutionary psychology suggested that a woman's sexual attractiveness was based on physical signs of her reproductive potential: the more she looked capable of bearing children, the more a male would be attracted to her.

He decided to find out if men were attracted to women who had a perfectly proportioned figure but were also extremely thin. He recruited ten women drawn from each of five body-mass categories: emaciated, underweight, normal, overweight and obese. Their category depended on their body-mass index, which is calculated by dividing a weight in kilograms by the square of height in metres. Those with an index below 15 were classified as emaciated,

15-19 as underweight, 20-24 as normal, 25-30 as overweight, and above that as obese.

Front-view colour pictures of the bodies and legs of the 50 women, wearing grey leotards and leggings, were shown to the undergraduates, who graded them in order of attractiveness. The most attractive women were found to be those with a body-mass index of between 18 and 21, regardless of the ratio between their hips and waists.

The undergraduates also gave higher marks to the women who were overweight, and even obese, than to those who were very thin or emaciated.

"Most young women in their late teens or early twenties... if they lose weight beyond the ideal, lose their attractiveness very quickly," Dr Tovée said. "What matters is that the body-mass index is right."



Dr Tovée at work on the study into what physical attributes men find attractive in women

Hunting Duke is a hypocrite, says McCartney

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

SIR Paul McCartney has called the Duke of Edinburgh a hypocrite, saying that his role as president emeritus of the World Wide Fund for Nature is at odds with his fondness for shooting birds.

The performer also said that the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds was misguided for not urging its supporters to stop eating meat, as land that could provide natural forests and habitat for birds was being swamped with pesticides and fertilisers to grow fodder for animals.

Sir Paul was being interviewed by the vegetarians' magazine *Viva!* as a sign that he will continue the work of his wife Linda, who died from cancer in April. Lady McCartney was active in setting up the Brighton-based *Viva!* charity 3½ years ago as part of her campaign to encourage vegetarianism and combat cruelty to animals.

In the interview, Sir Paul said: "President of a wildlife organisation shooting birds — that's hypocrisy. It's not even sport. They choose a bird that doesn't even fly well, a pheasant."

"Let's see him try and shoot swallows — they're not so easy to catch."

He recalled an occasion where he and his wife met the Duke. "Because she was an American, she talked to him just like he was a bloke, not all reverent like the British do."

"She said, 'You're head of a worldwide wildlife organisation. How can you go out shooting birds?' 'Are you vegetarian?' he asked, trying to catch us out. 'Yeah, we both

answered.' Sir Paul said that there should be an end to meat subsidies and he pledged to be as active as his wife in the fight for animals, and to continue with her food products."

"It was suggested we should call them Paul McCartney foods, but that sounded too Beatle. It didn't ring true. So it was Linda McCartney, mother and cook," he said.

"So many women subsequently came up to Linda and thanked her, saying they wouldn't have known what to feed their daughters when they went veggie without her stuff in the freezer."

"That was the big thing — Linda made vegetarianism mainstream. The motivation wasn't money or fame — it was if I could just save one animal."

Viva! normally has a circulation of 10,000, but the charity has doubled the latest print run.



The Duke: wildlife head and a keen shot

20,000 stray dogs killed each year

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT 20,000 dogs are being destroyed every year because they are abandoned by their owners and cannot be found new homes, according to a survey released today.

The most dangerous place for stray dogs is Northern Ireland, where 31 per cent of deaths took place. One in two there is destroyed, compared with an average of one in seven across the United Kingdom. Strays have the best chance of surviving in south-west England, where only one in 100 is put down, according to a survey commissioned by the National Canine Defence League.

Clarissa Baldwin, the league's chief executive, said: "It is heartbreaking that so

many healthy dogs are being needlessly destroyed. When a dog becomes a member of your family, it should be a permanent commitment. The dog cannot choose its owner, but the owners have a choice whether or not to care responsibly for their pets."

Local authorities took in more than 130,000 stray dogs between April 1997 and March 1998, the survey found. Nearly half were reunited with their owners, but the rest were destroyed, found new owners or placed in animal rescue centres.

Many local councils have begun promoting neutering schemes, and microchip identification, which makes it easier to trace dogs' owners.

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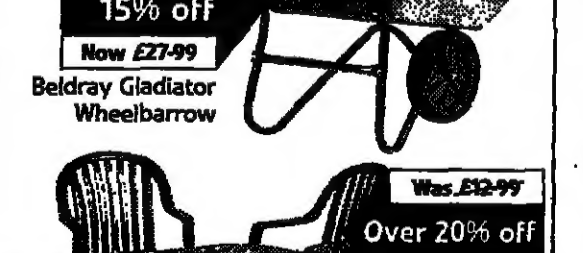
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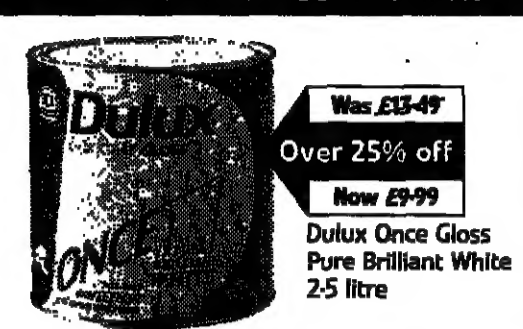


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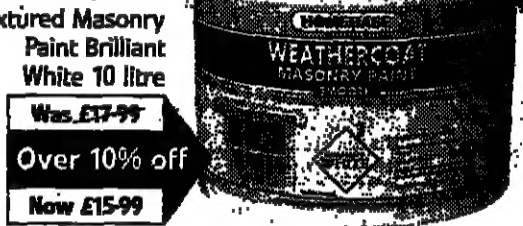


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Katherine Salisbury, 9, from St Albans, with "Prickles" at the launch of the project and, below, a wood mouse

Garden owners are asked to turn wildlife detectives

By NICK NUTTALL

HOMESOWNERS are being recruited to research the role of the garden in conserving foxes, hedgehogs, wood mice and other British mammals.

Valerie Keeble, of the People's Trust for Endangered Species, said yesterday that there was anecdotal evidence that many mammals were seeking havens in city and town gardens as intensive farming made the countryside less hospitable.

"We now get reports of muntjac deer on inner-city railway lines," she said.

Studies in which hedgehogs have been tagged show that increasing numbers are ending up in gardens. Under a scheme launched yesterday

by the Mammal Society and the trust, owners of gardens are being asked to log the animals they see and what measures they take to encourage them, including the kinds of food they put out.

The project, which will run to February 1999, is backed by a booklet to help garden owners to spot tell-tale signs of mammals. Dr Keeble said that eggshells, for example, might mean a fox was bringing food to a garden.

The scheme may also help to produce advice for garden owners who want to exclude less desirable mammals such as grey squirrels. "It may be that if someone has a lot of nut or fruit trees they might

have to tell the odd one to deter grey squirrels," Dr Keeble said.

The survey findings will be studied by Professor Stephen Harris, of Bristol University's Zoology Department. George Shearer, of the Mammal Society, said yesterday that the kinds of animals likely to be seen included foxes, wood mice and voles. Some gardens might also be home to visiting roe and muntjac deer, edible dormice, red squirrels and badgers.

People wanting to take part should send a stamped envelope to James Hargreave, Mammal Society, 15 Cloisters House, 8 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4BG.



Villagers opposed to a cull of roe deer in woodland near Horsley in Gloucestershire homes are offering themselves as a "human shield" to prevent the killing.

Every evening the wood echoes to the sound of dogs and local residents making it impossible for a marksman employed by the wood's owner to begin his work. The cull was ordered after an increase in the population of roe deer in the area.

Parents of Leah Betts flee drug culture

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

The parents of the Ecstasy victim Leah Betts said yesterday that they are to move to Scotland because their anti-drugs campaign is being ignored.

Paul and Jan Betts said they were tired of trying to make the public realise the risks from drugs. They are still living at Maldon, Essex, but are hoping to move to Skye.

The Bettses' campaign was started after Leah's death in November 1995, when she took Ecstasy at her 18th birthday party. They helped Essex police to pioneer drug action teams, but Mr Betts, a former police inspector, said: "Other than that, Essex has proved the point that a prophet is always without honour in his home. The vast majority of adults in this country accept that the drug culture is here."

He said the Scots were more disciplined and interested in their communities. The courts also had a clear view of drugs and anyone caught with cannabis for the first time was fined £300 and £600 for the second time. On the third occasion, the offender was jailed.

His wife said: "The agencies which people want to turn to are being deprived of money. People get disheartened and give up. The Government has just spent thousands and thousands on a report which says heroin is very cheap and a big problem. We could have told them that two years ago and it wouldn't have cost them anything."

Curbs sought on reports of freed child sex abusers

Richard Ford

on probation

chiefs' call

for offenders

to be housed

in secrecy

CHIEF probation officers are demanding restrictions on the reporting of the names and whereabouts of paedophiles released from jail.

The officers' professional association has compiled a dossier of newspaper stories that it claims were aimed at whipping up public hostility against freed child abusers. It says that irresponsible reporting has hampered efforts to supervise offenders, some of whom had been attacked by vigilantes or been driven underground out of fear for their safety.

A delegation of senior officers will meet the Press Complaints Commission next week to call for new guidelines. George Barrow, spokesman for the Association of Chief Officers of Probation, said: "We do not want to appear to be involved in a cover-up but we would not want to see the identities of people, or the addresses where they are being held, published. We want to reach more of an understanding with the press so that journalists can cover the stories without scuppering the arrangements made by police and probation services to supervise offenders."

The pressure for media restraint follows the release of Robert Oliver and Sidney Cooke, who were jailed for killing a 14-year-old boy, Jason Swift, in 1985.

Oliver was housed from town to town before being taken into police custody in

Sussex, where he spent months while the Prison Service tried to find him a place in a hostel. He is now being held at Blenheim House, a privately run medium-secure unit in Milton Keynes, at a cost of £320 a day.

The Home Office is still looking for permanent accommodation for Oliver, who was to move to a residential home at Wing, Rutland, but turned down the place because of the strict conditions that would have been imposed on him.

Cooke, released this year, is being looked after by Avon and Somerset police at an undisclosed address.

A working party set up by the Government to look at the problem of housing paedophiles freed from jail and not subject to supervision by the Probation Service is considering setting up a single unit to hold 50 offenders. The unit would provide both residential and treatment facilities.

One possibility is for the unit to be built in the grounds of a prison.

But Alun Michael, a Home Office Minister, said he thought that there was no one solution to the problem posed by releasing paedophiles into the community at the end of their sentences. "We need a range of responses in order to make sure the protection is there for different types of target threatened by different types of freed individuals."

Mr Michael confirmed that the Government was still considering whether indeterminate jail terms could be imposed on paedophiles. They would only be released from jail when it was considered there was no risk to the public.

Guy Black, director of the Press Complaints Commission, said that the issue had to be taken seriously. "We recognise that it is a very delicate situation and we need to be sure that any of our suggestions and proposals are going to be workable." He said that, after meeting the association's delegation, the commission would hold talks with the Home Office, police and Guild of Editors.

Roy Copeland, national organiser of the White Ribbon Campaign for Justice, condemned any plan to restrict press coverage of the release of paedophiles. He said: "If we are not aware of where they are being housed, how can parents and schools warn children of the danger?"

Raped prisoner awarded £20,000

Paul Wilkinson on
win for sex offender
who suffered in cell

A SEX offender has won £20,000 from the Prison Service after he was raped by a fellow inmate while sharing a cell. He had claimed damages, alleging that the service failed in its duty of care.

The man, from Teesside, was on remand at Durham prison when subjected to a 12-hour ordeal in a segregation unit. His attacker, Stuart Fawcett, 25, a bodybuilder, later received a three-year sentence for indecent assault and assault occasioning actual bodily harm. During the attack, the victim was repeatedly battered and suffered a broken nose and several ribs. His head was shaved and his chest covered with cigarette burns.

The victim, a married man, was on remand in 1991 before being jailed for the attempted rape of a girl of 8. He was in the segregation unit for his own safety, but was left unobserved overnight in the same cell as Fawcett.

Fawcett had asked to be in the segregation unit for his own protection because he was charged with attacking a

man of 78 with a chair leg during a burglary.

The sex offender was released from prison in October 1996. The out-of-court settlement over his negligence claim came three weeks before the case was scheduled to be heard at Middlesbrough County Court. A psychiatric report for the hearing described him as "timid, with borderline intelligence, and emotionally immature". The attack left him almost blind in his left eye, with nightmares and a fear of people and crowds.

Gary Johnson, the victim's solicitor, said: "This payout should increase protection for prisoners, and should encourage those who are attacked to sue for

damages. The prison authorities know that these things go on." A Prison Service spokesman said there had been no admission of liability. The settlement was not the first for a male sexual assault on a fellow male inmate.

The victim claimed that, as an alleged sex offender, he should not have been made to share a cell with someone with a record for violence. He also said that surveillance was inadequate.

Fawcett, from Middlesbrough, was also on remand. Documents disclosed for the damages case show that, since then, he has been the subject of 27 reports for misbehaviour in prison. The Home Office said that he did not have a significant record for violence.

He had no history of sexual offending or assaulting fellow prisoners, so it was not predictable that he would assault his cellmate. The Home Office also claimed that such violence could not be prevented unless vulnerable prisoners were put in permanent solitary confinement.

The twilight of a port that led the world

By RUSSELL JENKINS

NIGHT is falling fast over Liverpool docks, the lamp-lighters have done their work and decent folk are hurrying home to abandon the damp thoroughfare to drunken sailors and streetwalkers.

They scurry on foot and by horse-drawn carriage beside the tall ships moored in Salthouse Dock and past the neo-classical lines of the port's old Customs House and a row of brightly lit shops.

The artist has picked out advertisements for Cadbury's on a quayside hoarding and the fishmonger's wares, including a row of hung game, in intricate detail as if to emphasise that this is a real place inhabited by real people.

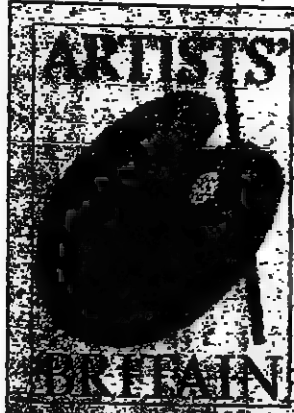
As in many of the works by the Victorian painter Atkinson Grimshaw, an everyday, almost squalid, urban scene has been rendered poetic, if not magical, by the fading light and, in this case, the showy use of lamplight.

The Customs House, Liverpool, Looking North was painted in 1887 when Grimshaw was at the height of his powers and Merseyside, the stepping-off point for those emigrating westward, was a maritime power at the hub of an international trade, fattened by the profits of slavery.

In the painting, sailing ships, their rigging a ghostly filigree, are lined up beside Albert Dock ready to discharge their cargoes of raw cotton, tobacco, wines and spirits. Salthouse Dock is still there today, but its moorings lie empty and Albert Dock, long since abandoned as a working warehouse, has been reborn as a tourist attraction, home to Granada Television studios, the Tate Gallery, shops, offices and apartments.

Over the century that separates us from Grimshaw, maritime trade has moved to the container port and the street scene has been transformed. There is little left that Victorians would recognise.

The Customs House, de-



Today *The Times* continues its series on how scenes depicted by British artists have changed.

No. 4 Atkinson Grimshaw's *The Customs House, Liverpool, 1887*.

signed by the corporation architect John Foster, was the city's most imposing building when it opened in 1837. It was badly damaged by the Luftwaffe in 1941 and was demolished in 1947.

These days an eight-lane road carries traffic to the city centre past the Merseyside police headquarters, a fortified and utilitarian 1960s brick building, and a fire station.

Canal Place, a set of unlovely, modern glass-and-concrete municipal offices standing on the site of the old Customs House, proved so brutal that they have been abandoned and are themselves due for demolition.

Only a solitary black anchor, bearing no inscription, backs back to the area's vivid past. Near by, a ceramic wall on the back of a social security building bears the legend: "In 1715 facing this site Thomas Steers engineer built the first enclosed commercial dock in Britain."

In the middle distance, the Liver Building, with its two mythical birds nesting on the roof, and the grander Cunard Building testify to the wholesale reconstruction of Liverpool's Pier Head around the turn of the century. Only the street names — Paradise Street, Mariner's Parade and Customs House Lane — remain from a bygone era.

The painting is one of three Atkinson Grimshaws at the

the artist's Glasgow docks by moonlight. It is a matter of historical record that the Cornishian columns in the painting are inaccurate.

"Some people have questioned the topographical accuracy of these pictures," Dr Treubner said. "He takes an artist's licence. There is no doubt about it. Some of them were indeed meant to be Liverpool, but they are not quite as accurate as all that."

John Atkinson Grimshaw (1836-1893), the son of a policeman, was a prolific artist with a large family to support, patronised by satists, and servants and a carriage and pair to keep up. He had no formal training and, in his early years, had to resist the opposition of his Baptist mother, who threw his paints on the fire and turned off the gas in his room.

Dr Treubner believes that even these cityscapes show the influence of his mentor, Whistler. He was forever condemned to live in the shadow of greater artists.

The Customs House, Liverpool, Looking North is on display in the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool.

□ NEXT: Turner's sketch of East Cowes Castle



The Customs House, badly damaged in the last war and demolished in 1947, dominates the 1887 painting



No landmark left from the Victorian scene: the Liver Building in the background was built in the 1900s

Duchess of talk gets own TV show

By A CORRESPONDENT

THE Duchess of York is to host her own talk show on Sky, the station has confirmed. She will present a series of ten one-hour programmes provisionally titled *Surviving Life*.

They will be screened on Sky One from October 5 and the duchess will donate her appearance fee — £5,000 per show — to a number of designated charities, relevant to the topics debated in each broadcast. Recording is expected to start in September. The duchess will be dealing with different topics in each show in front of a studio audience.

She has already made appearances in America on commercials and talk shows and impressed Sky executives during filming sessions in recent weeks. Elisabeth Murdoch, general manager of broadcasting at Sky Television, said: "We are delighted to have the opportunity to work with Sarah and for Sky One to be the home of her British television debut."

"Having been through so much in her own life, Sarah has a unique ability to connect with other people by sharing common experiences. What we have discovered is that she is a natural in front of the camera and has a real talent for television. Sarah's warmth, understanding and infectious sense of humour create a relaxed and intimate environment that brings out the best in her guests."

During the series, she will lead audience discussions on a series of social issues. "This is a new venture for me and I am greatly looking forward to the challenge," the duchess said yesterday. "Surviving Life will be about people and the real problems that they face in society today."

Television, page 47

NEWS IN BRIEF

Leeson asks for early release

Lawyers for Nick Leeson have applied for his early release from prison in Singapore, the British High Commission said. Stephen Pollard, his lawyer in London, said the process normally took one or two months, but "we hope this one goes faster". Leeson, 31, whose trading brought down Barings Bank, is serving 6½ years. He has had a tumour removed from his colon but the cancer has spread to his lymph nodes.

Close call

A workman trapped under a 45-tonne crane rang his wife on a mobile telephone to tell her he had been in "a bit of an accident". David Worthington, 58, was later flown to hospital in Preston, Lancashire, suffering from serious leg injuries.

Historic catch

A dug-out wooden canoe thought to date from the eighth century was dredged up by a fishing trawler off Dunwich, Suffolk. The site was once several miles inland, and experts say that the 17ft craft would have been used on lakes and rivers of the Broads.

£6m toy sale

The London Toy and Model Museum is for sale at £6 million. The museum, housed in two Victorian houses in Bayswater, West London, features a collection of some 7,000 objects, a café, shop and garden through which a steam train runs.

Riding death

A boy aged 14 died from spinal injuries after he was thrown from his pony. He was riding in a field with his mother on their farm near Banbury, Oxfordshire. Police said that his mother did not see the accident and found him lying on the ground.

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New run on rouble widens Russian woe

RUSSIA plummeted into a new political and economic crisis yesterday, as the Government struggled to defend the ailing rouble and the stock market plunged into a free fall. The situation was exacerbated by the continuing absence of President Yeltsin, enjoying his summer holiday while seemingly oblivious to his country's latest woes.

Trading was temporarily suspended on Russia's stock exchange for the second time in the week, with stock prices falling by 15 per cent and a new run on the rouble amid calls for devaluation. The central bank intervened to protect the Russian currency by imposing new trading restrictions, prohibiting banks from amassing stockpiles of foreign currency.

Sergei Kiriyenko, the Prime Minister, attempted to play down the latest crisis, reaffirming the Government's determination to carry out its austerity programme and blaming the latest turmoil on psychological reactions.

"There are at present no financial grounds for a deterioration in the situation on the markets," he said.

The Interfax news agency reported last night that Mr Yeltsin, holidaying in the northwest region of Valdai, had discussed the latest developments with Mr Kiriyenko by telephone and emphasised

Yeltsin carries on holidaying amid calls for devaluation of struggling currency, Robin Lodge writes

the importance of pursuing the Government's austerity programme.

The decision to take time off at such a delicate moment is characteristic of President Yeltsin who appears to alternate between frenzied activity, with repeated television appearances showing him castigating underlings or issuing stern political directives, and extended absences from the Kremlin, which have fre-



Soros wants the rouble pegged to dollar or euro

quently led to speculation about the state of his health.

Mr Kiriyenko said earlier that the economic situation had showed a marked improvement over the past month, with an increase in the central bank's currency reserves and indications of an improvement in the collection of tax revenues. However, his reassurances did little to stabilise the markets, which appear to be in free fall with no buyers showing interest in Russian stocks. Major companies suffered crippling losses, especially in the energy sector, where shares fell by 18 per cent in early trading.

The dramatic developments came after the publication yesterday in the *Financial Times* of a letter from George Soros, the multimillionaire financier, who issued a warning that the turmoil in the markets had reached "a terminal stage" and called for early devaluation and the introduction of a currency pegged to the dollar or the euro.

His views were echoed by leading Russian economists. Andrei Ilarionov, director of the Russian Government's In-

stitute of Economic Analysis, said it was now clear that inflation was inevitable and that when it came it would be serious. Only the earliest possible devaluation of the rouble would lead Russia out of the crisis.

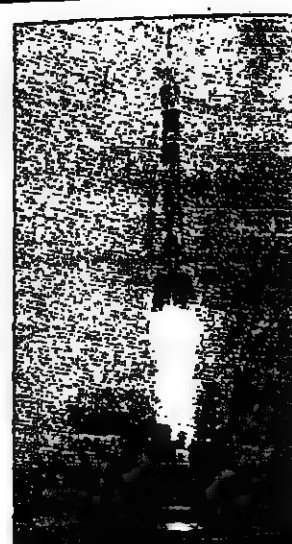
In his letter, Mr Soros called for the creation of a currency board to support a pegged rouble, set at 15 to 20 per cent below its current rate to reflect the impact of falling oil prices. This would require funds of \$50 billion (£30 billion), to be provided by Russia's own reserves of about \$18 billion, plus \$17 billion in assistance already pledged by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and a further \$15 billion which he said should be made available by the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations.

The Russian Government, however, is adamantly opposed to devaluation, fearing that such a move would precipitate a total collapse of the currency. Denis Kiselyov, deputy chairman of the central bank, insisted that the situation was well under control and dismissed calls for devaluation, which he said would simply play into the hands of currency speculators while doing nothing to restore confidence in the economy.

Leading article, page 21
Market turmoil, page 25



Yuri Baturin, centre, with fellow crew Gennadi Padalka, left, and Sergei Avdeyev before lift-off, top. Mr Baturin will return to Earth soon after docking with Mir



Bureaucrat blasts off for Mir

Balkonov: Russia has blasted its first bureaucrat into space to visit the 12-year-old Mir space station with two professional cosmonauts.

The TM28 spacecraft carrying Yuri Baturin, 49, a former defence adviser to President Yeltsin, was launched from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan yesterday morning and is scheduled to dock with Mir tomorrow.

Gennadi Padalka, 40, the commander, and Sergei Avdeyev, 42, the flight engineer, will stay on Mir for six months. Mr Baturin, who left President Yeltsin's staff in February, will return to Earth around August 25 with the present Mir crew. (Reuters)

Albanian turmoil as Serbs capture key Kosovo towns

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

KOSOVO'S ethnic Albanians appeared in political and military turmoil yesterday as a new cross-party negotiating team fell apart and rumours grew of a bloody feud between factions of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) as it struggled to defend its western headquarters against a brutal Serb offensive.

Christopher Hill, America's diplomatic envoy in the region, spent the day cajoling the Albanians towards announcing a five-member team for peace talks with Belgrade.

But by midway through the afternoon, the KLA had issued a statement from its unidentified "general staff", possibly in Switzerland, offering five different names to represent the guerrillas. Compromise between the rival Albanians seemed impossible.

On the military front, their position seemed even more hopeless. Serb police and paramilitaries overran the village of Glogjane, the KLA's

main forward base in the Decane region, and began the systematic destruction of nearby Prilep, a village that they had obviously tired of taking and retaking from the guerrilla forces over the past three months.

Several other villages in the area were also under attack, and aid agencies feared another refugee exodus. At least eight Albanians and a similar number of Serb police were said to have died in the attack on Glogjane.

The remaining obstacle in the way of the police and the Yugoslav Army is the border town of Junik, a sprawling settlement with a long rebel tradition and the main conduit for the weapons trade in this conflict between Albania and the Kosovo interior. The Serbs launched a heavy offensive against Junik on Tuesday but later eased off, as sources claimed that the ethnic Albanian resistance was self-destructing.

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A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a dark, textured surface, possibly a book cover or folder. The surface is mostly black with a grainy texture. Several bright, rectangular highlights are visible, appearing as reflections or light sources. These highlights are located in the upper left, center, and right areas of the image. The overall effect is dramatic and abstract.

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Tearful Clinton pays tribute to bomb victims

TEARS streaming unchecked down his face, President Clinton led the mourning as the flag-draped coffins of ten Americans killed in the Nairobi bomb blast were brought home yesterday.

Fighting to control his emotions, Mr Clinton spoke of how he and the nation shared the sorrow of the families of the dead and reiterated his determination to catch the killers.

Just days before a pivotal day of his presidency — his encounter with the grand jury — the President privately met members of the families of those who had been killed, before the service at Andrews Air Force Base, near Washington.

Afterwards, as he entered Hangar 3 holding hands with his wife Hillary, he looked emotional. Then, with the television networks transmitting the scene live across America, as a military band played the hymn *Nearer My God to Thee* and the names of the dead were solemnly intoned, the coffins were brought off the plane and he let tears roll down his cheeks.

Madeline Albright, the Secretary of State, was also

A grief-stricken President vows to hunt down bombers, reports

Damian Whitworth

weeping. There were only ten coffins at the service, as one American had been taken to Florida the day before and another is to be buried in Kenya. But President Clinton spoke of all 12 who were killed in his eulogy.

"Nothing can bring them back, but nothing can erase the lives they led, the difference they made, the joy they brought," he said, addressing relatives and friends, many of them holding pictures of the dead, who packed the gleaming hangar. "We can only hope that even in grief you can take pride and solace in the gratitude all the rest of us have for the service they gave."

He said that those killed were a microcosm of America.

"They came from diverse backgrounds. They are a portrait of America today and America's future." Referring to his meetings with the families and friends of those killed, he added: "What one classmate said of his friend today we can say of all of them: they are what America is all about."

He also spoke to the families of the Africans who made up the vast majority of the 250 killed and 5,000 injured in the twin bombings. "We also remember the Kenyans and Tanzanians who have suffered great loss. We are grateful for your loved ones who worked alongside us."

And he repeated his previous sentiments about America's determination to hunt down the perpetrators of the attacks. "No matter what it takes, we must find those responsible for these evil acts and see that justice is done. There may be more hard road ahead, for terrorists target America, because we act and stand for peace and democracy. But America will not retreat from the world and its promise, nor shrink from our responsibility to stand against terror and with the friends of



An emotional President Clinton and his wife Hillary watch the arrival of the flag-draped coffins of Americans killed in the Nairobi bombing

freedom everywhere. We owe it to those we honour today. As it is written, their righteous deeds have not been forgotten. Their glory will not be blotted out. Their bodies were buried

in peace, but their names shall live forever. May they find peace in the warm embrace of God. And may God give peace to those who love them and bless their beloved country."

Mr Clinton has never been shy about appearing misty-eyed in public, for example when attending national disasters. At the memorial service for the two policemen shot

at the Capitol, Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, was seen to have a tear streaking his cheek. Weeping has not always been accepted by American

politicians. When Ed Muskie was campaigning for the presidency, ill-timed tears ruined his bid.

Photograph, page 24

Saudi extremist built network of fanaticism

By MICHAEL Dwyer

OSAMA BIN LADEN, the renegade Saudi multimillionaire thought to be behind the East African embassy bombings that killed 257 and injured 5,000, has created a new terrorist organisation with the support of Iranian and other Islamic extremists.

Evidence has emerged that the fanatical Saudi dissident, operating from his remote hideout in the Afghan mountains, has brought together a number of terror groups dedicated to the co-ordination of a jihad, or holy war, against America and Israel. Known as the World Islamic Front for Jihad against Jews and Americans, the organisation was created on February 15 after a meeting between Mr bin Laden, an Islamic extremist, and other Islamic extremists in an attempt to broaden the fight against Israel and the US, according to intelligence sources.

During the meeting, Mr bin Laden and a senior member of Iran's Revolutionary Guards agreed to combine their efforts to oppose the US, provide assistance to Muslims in Bosnia and Kosovo, and train a new generation of Muslim extremists, according to an article in the latest edition of *Jane's Foreign Report*.

The article is backed up by a brazen interview Mr bin Laden gave on May 28 to ABC, the US television network. In which he said that a "higher council" had been created "to co-ordinate jihad against Israel". Mr bin Laden said his followers did not "differentiate between those dressed in military uniforms and civilians. They are all targets".

Mr bin Laden told ABC:



Bin Laden: at the top of US list of suspects

"We believe the biggest thieves in the world are Americans, and the biggest terrorists on earth are Americans." He added: "The only way for us to defend these assets is by using similar means."

On June 12, the State Department issued a warning naming him as a potential

of his estimated \$300 million (£184 million) personal fortune.

When the Soviet Union was finally pushed out of Afghanistan, Mr bin Laden moved to Sudan. But in the face of intense pressure from the US, he was expelled in 1994, and returned to Afghanistan's southern city of Kandahar with his three wives under the protection of the extremist Taliban regime. Two years later, he was stripped of his Saudi citizenship for his attacks on the Saudi royal family for allowing the "infidel" US troops to be stationed on Saudi soil — the site of Muslim sacred ground.

Mr bin Laden is reported to have 3,000 followers, who have fought on his instructions in Afghanistan, Somalia, Eritrea, Chechnya, Bosnia, Tajikistan and Yemen, backed up by a web of financial, logistical and strategic assistance to an assortment of Sunni Islamic groups.

Mr bin Laden has been cited by US intelligence as the prime suspect in two fatal bombings against American servicemen in Saudi Arabia, including the death of 19 airmen in Dhahran in 1996. He is also suspected of funding the explosion at New York's World Trade Centre in 1993.

Mr bin Laden's fighters are also thought to have been behind the shooting down of US helicopters in Somalia, killing 18 soldiers, in America's ill-fated Operation Restore Hope. US officials have confirmed that Mr bin Laden is "at the top of the list" of suspects because he is known to have an extensive terrorist network operating in Africa.

TERROR LINKS

terrorist threat, and tightened security arrangements at its diplomatic missions throughout the Middle East. The new security arrangements were not extended to Africa.

Like thousands of other young Muslims, Mr bin Laden left his native Saudi Arabia to join the holy war against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, aged 19. But he never returned to help in the running of the family construction business, which is the source

Envoy made plea to relocate embassy

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

COST OF SAFETY

THE US Ambassador to Kenya, Prudence Bushnell, who won praise after being wounded in last week's bombing and then working to organise the rescue operation, had begged Washington to move her embassy to a safer location.

Ms Bushnell was apparently so alarmed by the vulnerability of the compound — just 30ft from a busy main road — that she sent three letters to the State Department. The first message was sent last December, and another in May went straight to Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State. In a note written on the bottom, she asked: Ms Albright to come and see the embassy herself.

Ms Albright did not pay a visit and both requests for money for a new building were turned down. The United States Central Command, the arm of the Pentagon that oversees military interests in East Africa, had backed Ms Bushnell's pleas.

As news of the messages leaked out, the State Department admitted that it had regarded Nairobi as less vulnerable than a number of

other embassies which also needed cash for security.

"She indicated that resource constraints were endangering embassy personnel," said Patrick Kennedy, Assistant Secretary for Administration. "Unfortunately, we simply lack the money to respond immediately to all the needs of embassy construction."

Thomas Pickering, Under-Secretary of State, insisted later that the money would not have prevented last week's attack. "Even had we had the money to operate on Ambassador Bushnell's recommendations, we would still be in the early phase of construction right now."

The White House said that President Clinton would ask Congress for emergency funds to upgrade security at missions around the world after a security report is ready. He is likely to request hundreds of millions of dollars and he is not likely to be refused. "This terrorist threat must be countered," said Senator Ted Stevens, Republican chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.



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FBI quiz five held in Kenya

Nairobi: Five people are being questioned in connection with last Friday's bomb attack on the US Embassy in Kenya, investigators said at a press conference called jointly by the Kenyan police and the FBI (David Orr writes).

It is not believed those arrested are prime suspects in the hunt for those behind the attack, and no decision has yet been made on any charges. The Kenyan CID declined to name those detained or reveal their nationalities.

They had been picked up because of "suspicious activities", and one of them had been pointed out to the police by an American and arrested soon after the blast. Sheila Horan, FBI special agent in charge, said they had almost certainly found the vehicle used in the attack. Forensic agents had identified "certain parts of the delivery vehicle".

Stars raise \$2m for Clintons' legal fight

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

HOLLYWOOD is stumping up to help Bill and Hillary Clinton out of the financial crisis caused by their huge legal bills.

Some of Tinseltown's biggest names have rallied to the First Couple's side, shelling out the maximum annual contribution of \$10,000 (£6,170) to the Clinton Legal Expense Trust, which has garnered more than \$2 million since late February by taking aim at Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor.

They include Barbra Streisand, Tom Hanks, Steven Spielberg and Gail Zappa, widow of the rock musician Frank Zappa. Two others who sent \$10,000 cheques were Mr Spielberg's co-founders of the Dreamworks studio, David Geffen and Jeffrey Katzenberg. There is speculation that Mr Clinton will join the board of Dreamworks after he leaves office.

Mr Geffen told *The New York Times* that he wished he could have given more. He

said: "There's a well-financed group of zealots who want to bring down the President, and this guy has no money."

Even with the \$2 million from 8,000 contributors, the Clintons are well short of covering their lawyers' costs, estimated at \$6 million and with the potential to reach \$10 million before their legal woes

are resolved. Still, the new fund has done better than an earlier one which raised only \$1.3 million in three years. It was wound up last December, mired in controversy over suspect donations and paying out more in its own legal fees than was being taken in.

The Clintons' legal debts are far beyond the President's

total compensation and his family's net worth, according to the solicitation letter sent to supporters by David Pryor, a former senator from Arkansas who has known Mr Clinton for 30 years. The President's annual salary is \$200,000.

In his pitch for money, Mr Pryor omits any mention of Monica Lewinsky or other allegations against Mr Clinton. Rather, he complains that Mr Starr has spent more than \$40 million of taxpayers' money on his four-year investigation and that Paula Jones's backers continue to fund an appeal against dismissal of her sexual harassment suit.

□ Surgical spirit: Mrs Jones has turned the tables on the cartoonists who poked fun at her beak-like nose by revealing to a nationwide television audience the results of the high-priced plastic surgery paid for by an anonymous donor (James Bone writes). The result is a dramatically shorter and narrower nose, with a rounder tip than before.



Empty trophies in the Starr chambers: a view of the prosecutor by Signe in the *Philadelphia Daily News*



The Palio horse race in Siena, which dates back to medieval times and often results in injuries to riders and their steeds, is a continuing source of controversy between traditionalists and the animal rights lobby

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BRADFORD NOW OPEN

Activists force Blair rethink on day at the races

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN SIENA

ANIMAL rights campaigners have forced Tony Blair to reconsider his attendance to night at the Palio, the traditional bareback horse race in Siena which should have been the highlight of his Tuscan holiday, city officials say.

"We think the Blairs are backing out and will not come after all," one admitted.

The Palio, which has its origins in medieval times, is a short but dramatic no-holds-barred race around the sand-covered Campo, Siena's picturesque central square, with jockeys in Renaissance costume representing ten contrade (guilds).

The Palio itself takes place on Sunday, the Feast of the Assumption, of the Virgin Mary, but the Prime Minister and his wife Cherie had hoped to attend the equally tense and exciting rehearsal, which takes place today and is followed by street banquets in each of the contrade districts.

The Blairs leave Italy tomorrow for the South of France, after spending two weeks on the estate of Prince Giuliano Strozzi near San Gimignano, where they were offered hospitality as an alternative to the nearby estate of Geoffrey Robinson, the embattled Paymaster-General, where they spent the past two summer breaks. Downing Street officials said Mr Blair and his family, including his three children, Euan, Nicholas and Kathryn and his mother-in-law Gale Booth, had enjoyed a fortnight of swimming, tennis and walks on the 1,200-acre Strozzi estate, which has a swimming pool and tennis courts and produces its own wine.

But the Blairs' Tuscan idyll has been dogged by misfortune and controversy, beginning with puzzlement over why they had deserted Mr Robinson because of embarrassment over his financial affairs, only to stay two miles down the road. Prince Strozzi said the fact that he and his wife and two daughters had "given little thought" to where

they would stay when the Blairs arrived had subsequently given rise to mistaken reports that they were being driven out. "I'm afraid some British papers have built obsessively on a misunderstanding. I don't know why," the Prince said.

The Strozzi are staying in a separate wing of their 50-room villa. But the affair has left a bad taste, and has left a question mark over where the Blairs will stay next year. "They are running out of grand Tuscan houses," one spokesman said. "Local eyebrows were also raised when the Blairs turned down an invitation to attend an open air production of Verdi's *Rigoletto* in the spectacular setting of San Gimignano's centre, dominated by 13 medieval towers. Yesterday, ani-

mal rights activists said the Blairs had intended to leave on a high note by attending the Palio. But Alfredo Ricci, spokesman for the Italian Anti-Vivisection League, said Mr Blair was clearly embarrassed by a vocal campaign by activists who regard the Palio as brutal and inhumane.

"We pointed out to him through local officials that 36 horses have been killed in the race since 1975," Signor Ricci said. "I understand that in Britain there is greater concern for animal welfare than there is in Italy."

Signor Ricci said he hoped other British VIPs in Tuscany, including the Duchess of York and Neil Kinnock, the EU Transport Commissioner and former Labour leader, would also stay away.

City of Giotto cracks down on street life

BY RICHARD OWEN

POLICE this week began a crackdown on tourists who picnic on the steps of medieval and Renaissance buildings in Florence, saying it was time the city of Brunelleschi, Giotto and the Medici was saved from "a tidal wave of sloppiness and stench".

La Nazione, the Florence newspaper, said: "Those of us who live here can hardly remember a time when tourists were not sprawled like lava on the steps of the Palazzo Vecchio with their picnics. For years, we have had to perform a slalom between Coke cans and discarded picnic wrappers to get anywhere."

The police action has so far proved surprisingly effective, with officers moving in within seconds on anyone who so much as produces a hard-boiled egg or ham roll from a bag in a public place.

Hot and exhausted tourists nursing their sore feet in temperatures of nearly 40C (104F) said there were not enough public benches in Florence. "There are open-air toilets, but they are pricey and beyond many budgets," said one backpacker sitting on Piazza della Signoria, Florence's main square, in front of the 14th-century Palazzo Vecchio.

The new regulation imposes a fine of £8 for illicit picnicking and a £40 fine for anyone leaving behind refuse or otherwise dirtying a public place. But so far, police have contacted themselves with issuing "verbal reprimands". Marco Strozzi, chief of municipal police in Florence, said the officers would eventually be replaced by 50 civil volunteers.

Local authorities throughout Tuscany are taking up the "anti-sloppiness" campaign, with Siena and Pisa studying the Florence example closely.

UN war
Saddam
arms che

SUNDAY TIMES

ANIMATED DOMINGO

THE SUNDAY TIMES

UN warning to Saddam on arms checks

FROM MICHAEL THEODOROU IN NICOSIA

A SENIOR United Nations envoy flew to Baghdad yesterday hoping to resolve the stand-off over weapons inspections. His mission was given added urgency when the UN's top inspector issued a warning that the latest dispute meant his mission was no longer able to ensure Iraq was not trying to rebuild its weapons of mass destruction.

President Saddam Hussein, confident that America has no appetite or support for military action, declared last week that Iraq would no longer co-operate with weapons inspectors unless sanctions were lifted immediately. He said video and other surveillance would be allowed to continue, but it has since emerged that inspectors will not be permitted to act on any violations they discover.

"Under these circumstances, inspectors cannot continue to provide the same level of assurance of Iraq's compliance with its obligations not to re-establish its proscribed weapons of mass destruction," Richard Butler, the UN's chief weapons inspector, said in a letter to the Security Council on Wednesday.

There was a similar warning from Muhammad el-Baradei, the Director-General of the Atomic Energy Agency. Iraq's refusal to co-operate was weakening "ongoing

monitoring and inspection," he said.

Hours later Prakash Shah, a UN special envoy, arrived in Baghdad, with a letter from Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, urging the Iraqi leadership to fulfil its disarmament obligations and to reverse last week's decision. Iraqi newspapers repeated there would be no negotiations until sanctions were lifted. But as a special representative of Mr Annan, rather than the United Nations Special Commission (Unscop) that is overseeing Iraq's disarmament, Mr Shah was guaranteed a polite reception. Despite Baghdad's uncompromising stance, Saddam, who usually sets out maximum demands after provoking a crisis, was keen to see what concessions the UN may offer.

It was felt Baghdad might be prepared to compromise if the UN were to offer a phased lifting of sanctions, rewarding it for co-operation at each step instead of holding out until all weapons files are closed.

Saddam has set tough conditions in return for renewed co-operation with Unscop, including a call to move the body's headquarters from New York to either Geneva or Vienna. The aim is to dilute American influence over Unscop, which Iraq claims is in thrall to Washington. The

state-run press yesterday accused Mr Butler, an Australian diplomat, of working closely with the CIA. "Mr Butler has lowered his mask and shown himself to be a servant of the American Administration and executor of a US plot aimed at perpetuating the embargo," said the military newspaper Al-Qadisiya.

The attacks came as Iraq weighed the results of a television propaganda assault on Mr Butler intended to win sympathy and support at home and abroad. State-run television has been showing video footage of the tense encounters between Mr Butler and Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, taken when the disarmament talks broke down at the beginning of the month.

One episode showed Mr Butler abruptly rising from his chair to end a meeting on August 3. He agreed the meeting was frosty, but insisted the footage was edited and should never have been broadcast, as the recordings were meant to be kept private.

While Mr Butler has a reputation for straight talking, it was Mr Aziz, dressed in military uniform, who came across as by far the more abrasive, constantly interrupting Mr Butler with brusque demands for an immediate lifting of sanctions.



Engaging memorial: the tomb of Guy Akrish, 17, at Ashkelon cemetery in Israel. His sister Diana said it was a fitting tribute to the teenager, who died in a road accident last month, because he enjoyed talking on his mobile phone so much

WORLD SUMMARY

Israeli payout for torture victim

Jerusalem: Israel has paid more than £200,000 in compensation to a Palestinian woman whose son died after being tortured during interrogation (Ross Dunn writes). The decision came after a three-year court battle to win justice for Abd al-Samad Harizat, whose case has highlighted the controversial methods of Shin Bet, the secret service.

Mr Harizat, a member of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, was arrested at his West Bank home in Hebron on April 22, 1995, and transferred to a Jerusalem jail for interrogation. He was taken to hospital in a coma that day and three days later his family heard that he had been pronounced dead. His mother, Fatma, sued for damages and the State did not put up a defence.

Child labourers protest

Delhi: Fifty children forced to work as bonded labour in Indian carpet and fireworks factories launched a symbolic hunger strike here to protest at their maltreatment. The children, aged seven to 13, came to the capital from several regions for Independence Day tomorrow. India estimates its number of child labourers at 17 million, but welfare groups say the number is at least 44 million. (AFP)

Peace Corps worker killed

Hilo, Philippines: Robbers used assault rifles in an attack on vehicles on a road in the central Philippines, killing ten people, including a US Peace Corps volunteer, police said. Six of the victims were forced out of their vehicles, lined up on the side of the road and shot. The American was Robert Bock, 33, of New York, who was helping the provincial government with fisheries and conservation. (AP)

Junta halts Suu Kyi van

Rangoon: The Burmese junta halted a van carrying Aung San Suu Kyi, the opposition leader, from a highway near Rangoon, as her fourth roadside standoff with military officials inside a month dragged into a second day. Some diplomats said the van was towed to a bridge where she spent six days last month. Others said that troops carried the vehicle to a nearby police compound. (AFP)

Tests clear rape suspect

A man accused of raping a British tourist at gunpoint in Florida has been cleared after DNA tests revealed he was not the attacker, his lawyer said yesterday. Police arrested Kenneth David Taylor, 39, after the woman picked him out in police photographs. The woman and her partner, from west London, were attacked in their hotel room at the start of a holiday to Disney World last month.

Suharto security cut back

Jakarta: Indonesia is scaling down security for former President Suharto, the target of student protests before he quit in May. Most of the 540 presidential guards who protect him and his family, including his six children, will be removed next week, an official said. Jakarta's military command will assume security duties on Monday. (AP)

Till dress do us part

Athens: A bride-to-be suffered a nervous breakdown the night before her wedding on the Greek island of Crete when she took friends to the couple's new home to see the wedding dress — only to find the groom wearing it and in a passionate embrace with his best man. The wedding was called off, an Athens news agency reported. (Reuters)



Balloonist flies into fuel problems

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI

STEVE FOSSETT, the American adventurer, yesterday told his mission control headquarters that a fuel consumption problem might force him to abandon his fourth attempt at a non-stop flight around the world in a hot-air balloon.

After completing almost a third of his mission, he gave warnings that he was running out of gas and helium-burning fuel that he needs to steer his *Solo Spirit* balloon into suitable fast winds. The 54-year-old millionaire stockbroker, who communicates with his mission control

centre in St Louis, Missouri, via a satellite fax system — by written messages rather than radio or voice communication — said that he had been forced to use up much of his fuel in order to negotiate a high-pressure wind pattern and avoid slowing down.

"The problem is getting the right trajectory to keep me in fair wind speeds," wrote Mr Fossett, who launched from the Argentine city of Mendoza, in the foothills of the Andes, last Friday night.

Mr Fossett's team is now working out a plan to steer the balloon to favourable, fast winds which will require the least

amount of fuel. If he succeeds, the balloonist is expected to land in South America within ten days.

On Wednesday, he became the first man to cross the South Atlantic in a balloon. By yesterday morning, he was flying just off the coast of Madagascar, 20,000ft above the Indian Ocean, and had covered more than 8,500 miles. The 485ft-high balloon, which carries Mr Fossett in a tiny unpurified fibre-glass capsule, is due to pass over Australia today or tomorrow. Thousands of people are expected to cheer him on by waving white flags.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

ANIMATED DOMINGO

Plácido Domingo is passionate about opera and scornful of pop music. So why has he made a pop album? Bryan Appleyard travels to Salzburg to tackle the great tenor

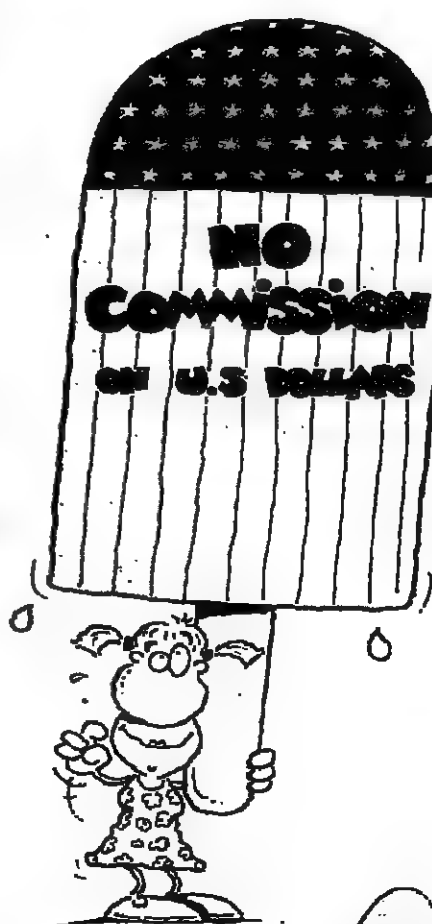
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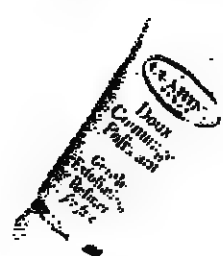
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Impressively understated, minimally packaged and only slightly perfumed. The cool blue exfoliator is gentle yet cleansing and left my skin feeling smooth, refreshed and healthy-looking. *Shiseido*, available at selected department stores nationwide 10/10



GENTLE EXFOLIATOR, £13.50
Smooth, creamy and easy to apply. A little goes a long way. It left my face feeling very clean and my skin firm but not tight. *Clinique*, available at selected department stores (0171-409 6951) 7/10

COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRIETT

Objects of desire

■ It may look minimalist and uninviting with its painted metal frame and monochrome woven fabric, but this Corbusier-style chaise longue is unbelievably comfortable; your body simply moulds into the curves of the chair. The angle at which you lie is extremely relaxing, perfect for reclining and reading a book. £335 from Graham & Green, 10 Elgin Crescent, W11 (0171-727 4594) DB



■ The new Emporio Armani fragrance is utterly desirable. The packaging is compact and made from contrasting soft rubber and silky-smooth metal. These cylindrical objects are compact and sculptured to fit together perfectly, curving outwards for him and inwards for her. They both share hints of cedar and musk but the male version is woodier while the female version is delicate and oriental. Unlike most perfumes the scent is not

powerful when first applied but gradually increases in intensity. To highlight the launch, customers are invited to have a complimentary cappuccino and relax at Frasers Glasgow, Kendalls in Manchester, Rackhams in Birmingham and Brown Thomas in Dublin. Prices start at £25. Available from tomorrow at Emporio Armani, department stores and leading chemists nationwide. DB

Whiter shades of pale

Returning from holiday on the Bay of the Somme (yes, very nice, thank you. According to a copy of French Vogue, the Somme is the place to go for your holidays this year—and so it is, if you don't mind spending the whole time swathed in damp fishermen's knits and waist-length waders, and don't fear the attacks of rheumatism, phthisis galopante and trench foot that such a wardrobe encourages... I was startled to find Britain in the middle of a late-blooming heatwave. How lovely. The very moment to rush out and purchase something white and floaty to set off one's pale-gold sunburn. So it's off to the shops, which naturally, since it is 90 degrees in the shade, are full of hairy tweed skirts and boiled-wool jerkins.

What's a girl to do? You may have thought that you had finished your sales shopping, but unless you fancy spending the dog days buttoned to the chin in your new-season's woolens, it's back again to see what can be unearthed from the expiring moments of the summer reductions. It is not quite hopeless. Some sensible chains, such as Warehouse and Jane Norman, have mid-season ranges, or their summer clothes still in stock. And in the sales, though stock holdings are unpredictable, there are still bargains to be found. At Marks & Spencer, for example, it is still possible to construct a notably chic all-white wardrobe for a satisfyingly small sum. Cool, wide-leg trousers in frosty-white crinkle viscose are £30, a matching tunic is £24, or a shirt £35—perfect for holidays because they are washable and don't require ironing. For evening, you could swap the shirt for a heavyweight viscose jersey tunic embroidered with flowers in crystal bugle beads and sequins, £15 (reduced from £21). Cotton mix T-shirts with a devoré rose pattern are £12 (£18).



good with an A-line viscose mini, £16 (£20). A white-on-white embroidered cotton shift dress is £25 (£28), and an elegant, knitted viscose knee-length dress £30 (£50). Also good are linen-mix, side-fastening narrow-leg trousers, £40, or pedal-pushers, £30. And if the heatwave proves short-lived, you might consider investing in a milky cashmere tunic, £110, which will see you right through the autumn and into the winter.

Elsewhere in the high street, some snowy pockets remain.

Warehouse has a good pair of white hooded tops—in short-sleeved polyester for £28, or long-sleeved cotton knit, £40. Pretty and comfortable wide-legged silk pants are £45 and (stretching the definition of white a little), there is a short skirt, £28, and spaghetti-strapped dress, £38, in a ravishing silver lamé jacquard. At Jane Norman, a bias-cut, knee-length skirt in white linen (you need to be thin to wear it) is only £29.99, teeny cotton and Lycra shorts with "combar" pockets are £24.99, and a pretty white viscose dress with a gathered bodice, sprigged with blue and green embroidered flowers, is £39.99.

At Liberty, Yohji Yamamoto fencers can find cream silk-satin harem pants reduced to £185 (£379) and a huge cream silk sweater, banded in navy at wrist and hem, for £205 (£419). French and Teague viscose pants with an embossed leaf pattern are £161 (£215), and Liberty's own-label voluminous white-on-white organza shirt is £87 (£175).

At Fenwick, Jasper Conran's loose silk trousers are £99 (£179), a matching big shirt is £159 (£245), and lurking shyly behind a sign at Selfridges that proclaims "The New Season has arrived", a little white edge-to-edge viscose cardigan by Jean Muir, fastened with a single crystal button, is reduced from £473 to £235—not cheap, but so perfectly classic that you could buy it when you were 18 and still look tremendous in it at 80.

But perhaps the best place to join the white company is at Jaeger. I have been popping in and out of its Regent Street branch all summer without finding anything that I felt I had to have, but the sale seems to contain some real treasures. Cream silk and linen mix side-fastening trousers are £69 (£120), and a matching unlined jacket with four mother-of-pearl buttons is £119 (£280). A less formal trouser-suit, with fluid clothed-cream silk jersey trousers and a tunic with military-style pockets is £69 (£120) for the trousers, and £49 (£100) for the jacket. A cream silk side-slit tunic is £59 (£130), and a Nehru-collared linen tunic with a row of mother-of-pearl buttons is £59 (£69). A classic knee-length linen skirt is £49 (£90), an ankle-length skirt in coarse-weave white linen £79 (£150)—and if you are beginning to feel the need for some variation in the uninterrupted vistas of white, off-white and cream, a desirable belt in a serpentine gold metal mesh is just £15.



Back to summer: but do the sales have the white requirements for your wardrobe?

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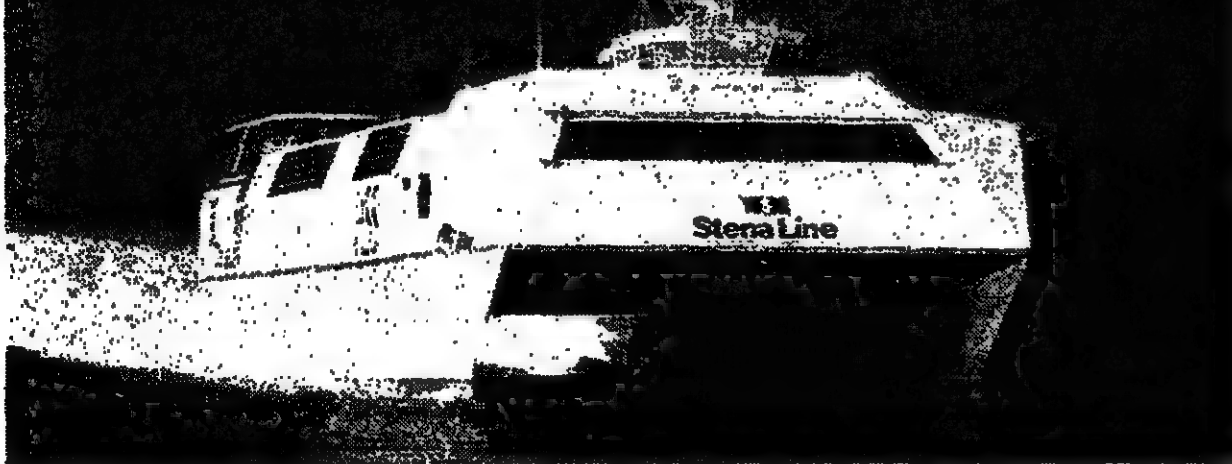
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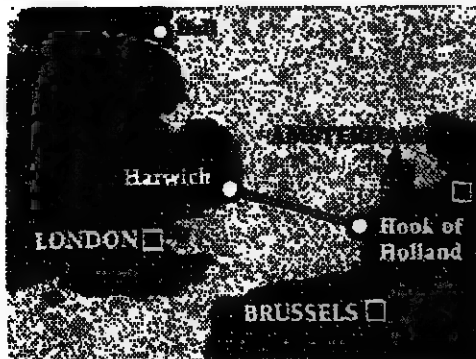
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HOT TIP



Forget orange-scented traffic light strips or even those dangling Magic Trees which smell of pine. The hip beauty specialist Aveda has finally produced a car freshener kit to be proud of. It comes in the shape of a leaf with a bathing chain attached (for dangling purposes) and three different scented sprays. Each scent is unique to Aveda and will leave your car smelling heavenly. Aveda AirMobile Kit is available only from the Aveda Lifestyle Store, 28-29 Marylebone High Street, W1 (0171-224 3157) DB

Signing my name cost me years of my life



MAN ON TOP
JOE JOSEPH

The final chapter for the great unread

It's surprising just how many people have been put off reading books by Sir Isaac Newton's third law of averages, which states that "there is a high probability that, owing to her prolific output, every fifth book you read will have been written by Barbara Cartland", which is an astonishingly prescient calculation considering that when Newton formulated this law way back in 1723, Barbara Cartland hadn't even completed more than 798 novels, approximately equivalent to only 6 per cent of her current output.

Audacious to motivate us all into reading again, bookshops have decided to make it impossible to ignore literature. The clever ruse they have devised is to turn the whole of Central London into a very large bookshop. Leading the campaign is Borders, an American bookchain which has opened a superstore in London, stocking 150,000 book titles. I went in on its opening day a fortnight ago and only yesterday found my way out again: I felt like those Japanese soldiers who emerge from the jungle in Borneo convinced that the Second World War is still in full swing — only for me the fear was that I was the only person in the world who hadn't yet heard the DNA test results on Monica Lewinsky's cocktail dress. Waterstone's is so jealous of Borders that it's going to build its own superstore near Oxford Circus, stocking more than 165,000 titles.

The owners of all these new warehouses want you to feel at home. They hope you'll sit around reading their books on specially provided sofas, drinking coffee and beer in the in-store bars. They want you to feel as comfortable as you would in your own home. But then they should prepare for the day when you walk into their shop and you scream: "All these books everywhere are driving me mad! I don't even know what half of them are. I'm putting them all in boxes and taking them to the Oxford shop right now!" Then see if the store owners still feel so clever.

The other drawback with this feel-at-home concept is that you rarely read books sitting on the sofa. If these book-sellers want to make you feel at ease, they should be providing simulated Tube train carriages, buffets, beds with fat pillows to lean against, miniature Mediterranean beaches and loos with telephones that will ring sporadically, but which will be just too far to reach from a sitting position. And because most of the books you find yourself engrossed in at home are

not the ones you pick off your bookshelf but the ones you find at the back of the cupboard while trying to locate your tennis shorts, smart bookstores should hide top new titles in unlikely nooks and crannies so that customers can just stumble across them unexpectedly. But who actually needs 150,000 different titles? If you go into your local bookshop, which stocks 20,000 titles, and can't find a single book you'd like to read, you're not looking for a book: you're looking for an argument. And we'll soon realise that we can read books on our own loos without a journey to Oxford Street.

That's when the owners of these superstores will start enrolling their staff on the same courses from which insurance salesmen learn their hard-sell techniques and then they'll make them cold-call you at home to persuade you to buy one of their four million unsold books.

SALESMAN: I know this is not something a young chap like you imagines he'll ever need to think about, but have you given any thought to how your dependants might feel if you were to drop dead one day without having made any provision to leave them a selection of hardback literature?

YOU: I have no dependants who rely on me for their well-being apart from a Thai man who comes and collects my shirts and returns them 48 hours later, carefully ironed and folded in a way that disguises the latest scorch marks left by his temperamental iron.

SALESMAN: Do you realise that, if you're currently under 40, for just 23p a day you could amass a rewarding book collection to pass on to your future children at the age of 65, instead of just a collection of pizzeria flyers? Or do you want them to grow up illiterate, unable to find a job, unaware that there's always a way to pick yourself up by your bootstraps and turn the tables on the world because they have no concept of the "final chapter, table-turning denouement" as a result of the lack of literature left to them by you?

YOU: When you put it that way, maybe I should take a dozen Graham Greenes, four Hemingways and a Dickens or two to broaden the portfolio.

SALESMAN: Believe me, you won't regret it. Hey, did I mention that our fitted-bookshelf operatives are in your area and that, at no obligation, they could drop by to see if you qualify for a free fitted bookshelf? Hello? Should I take that as a "no"? What if I throw in those DNA test results you missed on Monica Lewinsky's dress?

'Signing my name cost me years of my life'

Lloyd's name Sally Noel is staging a very public protest. Interview by Lucy Hawking

Under the muggy August sky, waves of tourists flow past the Houses of Parliament, some stopping to stare at a blonde woman draped in chains outside St Stephen's Chamber, the main entrance to the House of Commons and Lords. "Never imagined that I'd be bringing me to this," sighs Sally Noel, Lloyd's name and chain-wearer, as she readjusts her black wraparound shades. "This really isn't what I expected."

Certainly, Noel would look more at home in the pages of *Hellot* than protesting on the pavements of London. "Used to be very happy playing tennis and water-skiing and hunting and being the mother of four children and Mrs. Domestic Housewife," she says. Yet a future of relentless debt at Lloyd's of London has turned Noel, a dead ringer for Patsy from *Absolutely Fabulous*, into an unlikely but fervent activist.

year, I lived quite a glamorous life," he says, leaning against one of Noel's anti-Lloyd's posters for support. "I've gone from being a wealthy guy to being not a wealthy guy. It's quite simple really."

Noel's bill from Lloyd's is £300,000, currently unpaid. She was tempted to accept a very preferable settlement offered by Lloyd's that would have greatly reduced her debt. But a clause in the document would have bound her to silence on the Lloyd's matter forever. At the last minute she turned down the offer and joined the little band of renegades.

These rebel names have steadfastly avoided settlement in order to bring a fraud claim to court. They allege that Lloyd's knew of the huge losses it was facing and deliberately recruited new names to cover them. They say that the high-risk elements were shovelled into the newer syndicates, no longer peopled by the stereotypical patrician investor but by middle-class professionals and overseas punters, seduced by the lure of all that was Lloyd's.



Parliamentary protest: "At the end of day, I'll lie down and die in a very public place and it will be for a good cause," says Lloyd's name and activist Sally Noel

of their bankruptcy. "It has caused huge friction within our family," Noel says. Her four grown-up children have been distressed and confused by the situation. "They've lost a mother — I've become a fanatic. They're desperately upset but don't know what to do to help me."

With the wisdom of hindsight, Noel says she was never keen on joining Lloyd's. She was recruited after a chance meeting on the ski slopes. "I felt unhappy from the word go," she says. "I don't like gambling. I have never put more than £1 on a horse in my life so it seems ironic that I got involved in the biggest gamble of all time."

But, having been persuaded that she was making a blue-chip investment and assured that she would not be put into any high-risk syndicates, she put her money in. And while unlimited liability should have flashed a warning, she says that she was told that it was a mere formality, and that there was no chance of the Noel establishment being reduced to its last cuff link. "We were gullible," she now admits.

Noel resigned from Lloyd's in 1985 — her husband had lost his job and she wanted her capital back. But she found that things were becoming complicated. In normal circumstances a name is locked in for three further years after resigning. However, a year of exceptional losses may be declared an open year, in which case the books never close and the names are tied in for ever.

In Noel's case, she says that she was brought in to underwrite high-risk ventures that Lloyd's already knew would generate huge losses. Lloyd's says there is no way it could have foreseen the terrible impact these cases would have, but the rebel names believe it knew about the potential damage and kept the information from new names.

Despite their fortune, it is not clear just what the future holds for these names. An inquiry recently opened in the US may shed light on the recruitment of American names but there are no plans to hold an inquiry, refused by the previous Government, in Britain. Noel, however, intends to keep to her post, still lingering on the parliamentary pavement when MPs return from their summer holidays, still protesting.

"It's the last thing I wanted to do. All I ever wanted was a peaceful life," she says, looking very determined indeed. As another tall blonde once said: "The thing is, she won't go quietly."

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Ed Needham, FHM's Editor, on the secret of his success. Pages 35-38

Results countdown: what a difference an A makes — or does it? Page 40

The politics of a German Golgotha

Daniel Johnson on Kohl's Holocaust Memorial in Berlin

The Holocaust made few headlines while it was happening, but now it is rarely out of them. From disputes between Volkswagen and Daimler-Benz and former slave labourers to Swiss and Austrian banks or the argument over crosses at Auschwitz, the Holocaust is as much a part of the present as of the past.

Indeed, it is precisely in countries which denied this truth, which did their best to suppress or ameliorate the memory of the Shoah that it has returned with a vengeance. In their different ways, Switzerland, Austria and Poland all feigned innocence; East Germany, too, pretended that it was a walled garden of good, socialist Germans, while the guilty Nazis were all in the West. Only the Federal Republic attempted, from the first, to accept collective responsibility for the Nazi crimes, and to institutionalise their remembrance. Even the West Germans, however, have never reached a consensus about the appropriate manner of exorcising the demon of Judaeicide.

And so it is that the Holocaust has never ceased to be a major issue in German politics. The Cold War distorted and polarised attitudes to the past, most vividly in the Bitburg affair of 1985. The German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, then invited President Reagan to commemorate not just the victims of the Nazis, but also the veterans of the Wehrmacht and even, as it turned out, the Waffen SS, at the Bitburg cemetery. Protesters on both sides of the Atlantic, and not only by Jews, could not prevent this bizarre ceremony, which amounted to an oath of transatlantic *Nibelungen*, the blood brotherhood of former foes, against the insidious threat posed by neutralism to Nato solidarity. According to George Shultz, then US Secretary of State, Kohl blackmailed Reagan by threatening that his coalition would fall if the President did not come, and German-American relations would be permanently damaged.

In the event, real damage was inflicted on German-Jewish relations. Bitburg confirmed the widely held impression that the guardians of Germany's conscience were to be found on the Left, and those who wanted to "draw a line under the past" on the Right. The contrast between the two images — of the Social Democrat Chancellor Willy Brandt falling on his knees in the Warsaw Ghetto, and the Christian Democrat Helmut Kohl honouring Hitler's fallen warriors — could not have been expressed more graphically. It certainly rankled with many German conservatives, who resented their exculpation or apologetic reputation and pointed out that the Kohl Government's record on compensation and commemoration was in many ways better than that of its predecessors.

Kohl has an obsession with history. His own place in it will, he hopes, not only be that of the man who unified first Germany and then Europe, but also of the man who reconciled the Germans to their

nightmarish past and so enabled them to love their country again. To restore German patriotism, he came to realise, the Left's monopoly on the memory of genocide had to be broken and the lingering, albeit latent, anti-Semitism of the Right had to be expunged. Kohl has largely succeeded in both aims, but he has failed to elevate the Holocaust above the political arena. His German Historical Museum in Berlin, founded in the late 1980s, was denounced on the Left as a nationalist plot to whitewash the past. Now an even more ambitious Kohl project — the Holocaust Memorial — looks as though it may run into the sandy Berlin soil if the Chancellor loses next month's general election.

The memorial was intended to set the seal on the historical consciousness of the "Berlin Republic". On the site of the garden of the Reich Chancellery, built by Albert Speer to be Hitler's showpiece, above the Nazi leaders' bunkers and beside the Berlin Wall, near the Brandenburg Gate and the rebuilt Potsdamer Platz, at the heart of the old capital and the new, there is a 25,000 square metre open space. After two competitions and a decade of debate, one plan has emerged on top. Some 2,700 massive stone steles, or slabs, would be erected to an American design by Peter Eisenman and Richard Serra. Its advocates claim the conception defies reproduction and must be experienced first-hand. The visitor wanders through a forest of tombstones at the nerve-centre of the Third Reich. It could be Germany's Golgotha.

Even though Kohl has thrown his not inconsiderable weight behind it, the Eisenman-Serra memorial has failed to capture the public imagination, and is opposed by the Mayor of Berlin, a fellow Christian Democrat, who may carry with him a majority of the city's senate when it votes next week. Until the past few weeks, however, it was not a party political issue. Then Kohl's Social Democratic challenger, Gerhard Schröder (the "German Blair") chose an American-German publishing executive, Michael Naumann, to be his Shadow Culture Minister. Naumann poured scorn on the Holocaust Memorial, which he thought worthy of Speer; when asked Schröder said his views were "very close" to Naumann's, and that he thought the concentration camps themselves were the best memorials. Not many Germans go to the "KZs" except on school trips. Such cynicism is breathtaking, but Schröder has an election to win. He has calculated that many Germans, especially in the East, resent "Jewish demands". So, for the first time since 1945, the parties of the Right are campaigning to keep alive the memory of the Final Solution, while the Social Democrats are the party of amnesia. It is a nice irony that Schröder wants the old Schloss of the Hohenzollerns, demolished by the Communists, rebuilt in all its splendour. In Kaiser Gerhard's Berlin, the Holocaust would be out of sight. Would the victims be out of German minds?



Every drop to drink

If desalination were cheaper, we could drink 99% of the world's water

Many miles north of Keren in Eritrea, in a land of great hills and arid valleys, a hot place, nomads scratch what living they can from the unyielding thorn scrub. I visited one of their encampments last Christmas. The people were in a pitiful state. Dogged by malaria and drought, their children malnourished and their cattle skin and bones, this diminished group of families had gathered their tented sticks huts around a dried-up river upon whose irregular flood all life in the valley depended. Otherwise, one could spring many miles up a steep valley was all they had.

We drank tea under a verminous shelter made from acacia branches strung over with bits of blanket and cardboard. If I asked my hosts this river sometimes dries, is it not possible that beneath the riverbed there is moisture all year? Could the Government not sink a borehole?

"Yes," said our interpreter, "they have drilled and found water. But it is salty. They can drink it but it makes them sick. It spoils the soil."

Having an afternoon to spare later by the Red Sea, I whittled away the hours with notebook and pencil designing a do-it-yourself, Third World desalination kit that would use old car radiators, oil drums and hose-pipe. The heat of the sun would boil salt water whose steam could then be distilled into fresh water. On my return to England, Internet-browsing showed I had come late to the idea: the challenge of replicating industrially what nature does with sun, clouds and rain has absorbed generations of those who work in dry countries. Hundreds of designs exist. Huge plants are in use on Arabian coasts, using oil-fired boilers, solar power or both; but the process of desalination through distillation remains expensive. It is also troublesome. Boilers and pipework keep caking with salt.

This is more than a pity: it is infuriating. Some 99.2 per cent of the world's unfrozen water is salty. Yet only a narrow and specialised range of animals, plants and fish can live in salt water. The rest of us need some of that precious 0.8 per cent, or we die. Wars are fought over it, tribes follow it, murders are committed because of it, and when it dries or moves, civilisations founder. In temperate Britain we are unusually ill-placed to understand emotionally

(though we may know intellectually) the importance of water to a devastatingly dry world in which we occupy one small, damp corner.

Yet what if mankind could desalinate sea water, everywhere, and every drop to drink? At a stroke that 99 per cent becomes a near-universal resource. Within a few generations every dry coastline on the planet, hundreds of thousands of miles of it, and all its hinterland, becomes habitable, arable. Every brackish well becomes a life-saver. And the resource is infinitely renewable, for by taking salt from the sea in one place and dumping it back in another, we yield fresh water which ultimately trickles or falls as rain into the sea. Apart from the fact that we have not yet invented an

affordable means of removing salt from water, in quantity.

The idea is simple: the submicroscopic equivalent of clearing a liquid by straining it through a sheet. Sodium and chloride ions are blocked by a semipermeable membrane that allows fresh water to pass through. It is (as The Economist's science editor puts it) a matter of "squeezing water from the sea": a physical, not a chemical process. Chemicals are required only to clean the plant. No heat is needed and the energy input (to drive pumps) is small enough for it to be supplied by a portable generator, or solar-electric or wind power.

The process has been known for decades but a new impetus for its application is being provided by the development of better

Matthew Parris

The quantity of throughput is higher, the pressures lower, and the material is harder-wearing. We inspected the three "pressure tubes" in which the reverse-osmosis membranes were rolled into what looked like double-sided Swiss-rolls, with water being forced through them.

But that is the second half of the process. First you need absolutely clean filtered salt water; for if you clog your osmotic membrane with mud, sand, weed and submicroscopic organisms, it rapidly degrades. As so often in the development of usable technology, it is this rather humdrum part which is hard to get right outside the laboratory. You need plant you can pump on and off a lorry.

How best to filter? At Felixstowe the pilot trial was carried out first using water from a well by the beach. The sand and silt had acted as a natural filter, doing half the required cleansing job. But not every site offers this, so the second stage of the pilot used water taken straight out of the sea — and pretty foul it was. The khaki-coloured soup was filtered by a

"hollow-fibre ultrafiltration" machine (a self-cleaning plant, about the size of a small car). This is off-the-shelf technology that is widely used across the world for river water.

If you harness these two technologies — the pre-filtration and the reverse osmosis for salt removal — you end up with drinking water so pure that it tasted flat. I tried it. I lived in London water. I tinkered for chemicals. The pilot scheme, Mr Murrer told me, had been wholly successful. It is now complete. By the end, a plant which should in time be possible on the back of a single lorry was producing 8,000 gallons of water a day. This still costs a good deal more than rainwater in a country well-served with rivers and reservoirs; in Britain these plants are likely to be useful only in emergencies, or for sites to which there is no infrastructure, for example seaside holiday camps, caravan parks or construction sites.

But abroad the potential application is immense. With economies of scale, costs could come right down. In the United States there are fixed plants turning out more than ten million gallons a day.

The contribution made by Anglian consists not in any great new invention, any flash-in-the-pan genius, but in innovation of a sort John Harrison, our 18th-century inventor of the marine chronometer (and, ultimately, the clockwork wristwatch), would recognise: patient, intelligent, trial-and-error slog. Sometimes we expect abracadabra answers to problems for which the theoretical solutions are available: what is needed is a great deal of enlightened fiddling around. Less of the wand and more of the spinner, detailed lists of product specifications and costings, the metering units and computer printouts.

Whoever could make two ears of corn or two blades of grass to grow upon a spot of ground where only one grew before would deserve better of mankind and do more essential service to his country than the whole race of politicians put together," says Jonathan Swift. It was good, earlier this summer, to get away from Westminster and on to Felixstowe beach. Mr Murrer may visit Eritrea on fact-finding missions. The mission of Mr Murrer and his team, however, is more likely to be remembered by nomads.

Philip Howard

The whole of maths is greater than the sum

After three centuries of pencil-cheating calculation, Kepler's Orange Stacking Problem was crushed this week. Professor Thomas Hales of Michigan University posted his solution to the most notorious problem in mathematics on the Internet. It contains 250 pages of logic, and relies on computer programs that occupy more than three gigabytes of storage space.

Those of us who are weak at higher sums (99.9 recurring per cent of the human race) can only wonder at the fuss. The problem seems so simple. At the beginning of the 17th century Sir Walter Raleigh asked Thomas Harriot, the English mathematician, to study the stacking of cannon balls. Harriot wrote to Johannes Kepler, the German astronomer, who was deemed to be good at balls since he discovered the three planetary laws. In 1611 Kepler suggested that face-centred cubic packing was the most efficient way to pack the most spheres into the smallest space.

For bad boys at the back of the class, Kepler's system arranges the bottom layer in rows that are alternately staggered by half a cannon ball. The next layer is built by placing balls in the depressions left in the first layer. And so, onwards and upwards. But Kepler could not prove that there was not a more efficient way.

Mathematicians have been stumped by this problem ever since. But that is the way that greenrogers without O levels for GCSEs in maths have been stacking oranges in boxes for ever longer. So what conclusion do we draw from this, O God? The Harriot solution is that all creatures are born with an archetypal knowledge of the mathematics of the Universe. So bees build their honeycombs more or less according to Kepler's packing system, and cows introduced to a new milking parlour plod their way to the stalls in the same sequence that they were accustomed to in their old parlour.

The Harriot solution is that serious mathematicians are nerds solving ridiculous non-problems. Fermat's Last Theorem may be a pretty puzzle, but its only intelligent product has been Stoppard's brilliant play, *Arcadia*. Higher mathematicians are strange, cantankerous internationalist creatures. André Weil, who died last week, spent much of his life arguing with a mathematician who died 23 centuries earlier, Diophantus of Alexandria.

Archimedes was a mathematician for practical as well as wacky mathematicians' seasons. He is best known for running naked down the street shouting "Eureka!" after discovering the Archimedes Principle while playing with a toy duck in his bath. But he also invented the "Screw" for raising water. He built a planetarium and he designed the catapults and grapeshot which held off the first Roman siege of Syracuse.

But his first love was for useless problems. He calculated the number of grains of sand needed to fill the Universe. To cope with the vast numbers involved, he came up with the original concept of a myriad myriad, ie, 10,000 x 10,000, or 100,000. Given that he knew only a Universe visible to the naked eye, his answer of 10,000 was respectable. Archimedes's *problema bovium* posits Apollo having a herd of cattle, bulls and cows together, some brown, some white, some spotted, in various proportions. The answer comes to 79 billion cattle, which is far in excess of the number that could stand in Sicily, including those perching in the boiling crater of Etna.

Higher maths is useless. That is its glory. You cannot justify it by its spin-offs. In the way that idiots justify the space programme because it produced the non-stick saucepan. Fewer students study maths at university today, going for softer options such as politics or media studies. But maths is so wonderful because it is knowledge for its own sake. A student at the Academy studying abstract maths asked Plato: "What practical end do these theorems serve? What is to be gained from them?" Plato turned to his slave and said: "Give this young man an obol (a penny) that he may feel he has gained something from my teachings. And then expel him."

Maths is poetry. It is above and beyond profit and loss. Even those of us who struggle with our DIY Inland Revenue forms can recognise its icy beauty. QED.

Turkey loot?

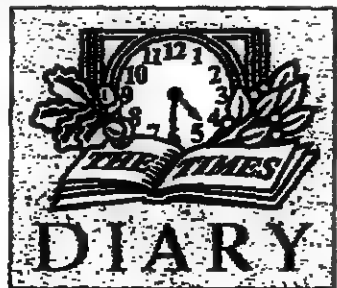
THE former wife of Asil Nadir, the disgraced tycoon, is planning to seek refuge in Britain from the Turkish police. Ayesha (pictured left), whose erstwhile husband (right) hides from British justice in Turkish-controlled northern Cyprus, is on the run from her homeland for allegedly smuggling an antique Koran and a marble phallus. The former society hostess, who is in France, believes Britain is less likely to hand her over to the Ankara authorities than other European countries. Ayesha's arrival in Britain will be only the latest chapter in a colourful life. In the Eighties, when Polly Peck, her husband's company was rapidly emerging as a £2 billion business, she was a prominent figure in the Belgravia party circuit, treating Princess Margaret and Michael of Kent to summer cruises in the Aegean.

Ayesha also ran an antiques export business with Oliver Hoare, the close friend of Diana, Princess of Wales. But in 1990 the Nadirs divorced, although Ayesha was able to negotiate a £20 million settlement. Then Polly Peck went belly-up and Asil was charged with fraud and theft. In 1993 he skipped the country, finding a safe haven in Cyprus. Ayesha was quoted recently stating that she was almost broke and that her "life has ceased to be an interesting one". But she was spotted at the weekend on a private yacht moored off St Tropez, on which she has spent much of the



summer. If she arrives on our shores, I hope for her sake that British and Turkish diplomats do not arrange a swap from their respective wanted lists on the middle of the Bosphorus Bridge.

● TWENTY thousand recovering drug addicts and their friends have snapped up tickets for a free concert featuring Eric Clapton in Los Angeles next month, to be staged by Narotics Anonymous. Sadly, the event's organisers have agreed to broadcast the event,



which will reveal their faces to audiences in more than 20 countries.

Expenses paid

WITH the David Shayer affair hotting up, *Newsnight* must be thanking its lucky stars to have Stan Kevill in the studio. The programme's editor has been telling her BBC colleagues that she was recruited by M6. Kevill, who is a dead-ringer for Dame Stella Rimington, only younger-looking, agreed to join the service after leaving university, but first she wanted to do a spot of travelling.

She told the spooks and they agreed to fund her backpacking. During her year out, however, Kevill says she changed her mind about her future career and decided to sign up with the BBC. When she nervously informed her M6

controllers, they told her not to worry about her cash advance and wished her well. One for Jeremy Paxman to investigate.

● BALLYCASTLE has at least one thing going for it, even though it is in the boondocks. The Northern Ireland town, where Marconi transmitted the first commercial radio signal a century ago, is a blackspot for cellular users.

Pitch invasion

AS a long-suffering Fulham FC fan of 40 years, Stephen Pound, you might have thought, would have had first call on a couple of



"Is that the time or the year?"

smart new VIP boxes at Mohamed Al Fayed's club. But it is not to be. The Labour MP for Ealing North will have to settle for his regular spot on the terraces at tonight's big match against Manchester City. For the seats in the boxes are expected to be filled by a group of noisy, if celebrated, away fans.

"The club is allowing Liam and Noel Gallagher to use the boxes," complains Pound, who will stand alongside Martin Linton, his fellow Labour MP and Fulham fan. "I shall stand right in front of them with the other fans. However, I shall be erecting a cordoned sanitaire within vomiting range."

● IS THE bottom falling out of the market for James Bond suits? A tux worn by Sean Connery in *Diamonds Are Forever* sold for £9,775, while an outfit sported by Roger Moore is expected to raise no more than £6,500 at auction. A Timothy Dalton number has been priced at a miserable £5,000.

Stripped bare

JERRY HALL might have left Bryan Ferry for Mick Jagger but she still prefers her former boyfriend's croonings. In an interview to be broadcast later this month, the model lists four Ferry records and only three Jagger cuts in her favour.



He ten singles. Hall was engaged to the smooth *Roy Music* crooner (pictured) in the Seventies, until Jagger saved her from becoming Jerry Ferry. Bryan was most displeased, filling his next album, *The Bride Stripped Bare*, with bitter post-mortems on her departure. In 1988 in *Kiss and Tell*, he sang about her: "One public face in a finissee. Flash photography, it's the only life you see." Among the Ferry songs picked by Hall were *The Price of Love* and *Jealous Guy*.

EDWARD WELSH



RUSSIAN WOBBLES

The tightrope is fraying, but it has not yet snapped

The Russian barometer rose encouragingly in the immediate aftermath of the IMF's \$22.6 billion rescue package for Russia last month. The rouble strengthened, the stock market soared, even the sun came out and those Russians who can afford them headed for their dachas. So, after grudgingly passing some but not all of the laws needed to implement the anti-crisis package drawn up by Sergei Kiriyenko's Government, did the ever-grumbling members of the Duma. Foreign governments crossed their fingers that Mr Kiriyenko's reforming team would make the most of the breathing space to restructure Russia's \$24 billion in short-term debt, raise the tax revenues needed to close its budget deficit and give longer-term reforms a chance to revive growth.

Within only a few weeks, the clouds are back. Yesterday, yields on treasury bonds re-entered the stratosphere and the stock market took a bungee jump, dropping 15 per cent before ending the day eight points down, largely because of forced selling by Russia's cash-strapped domestic banks. The central bank, which has spent \$1.4 billion in foreign exchange reserves over the past week on stabilising the rouble, pumped liquidity into the interbank market to avert the risk of default. Fearful that commercial banks would just use these funds to speculate against the rouble, it simultaneously restricted their access to hard currency.

Nerves were further jangled by the financier George Soros, who called for a 15-25 per cent devaluation followed by the creation of a currency board, and said that Western governments must at once come up with a further \$15 billion to avert financial meltdown. The politically "devastating" alternatives, he argued, were default or a return to hyper-inflation.

Western governments are disinclined to accept his invitation to press the panic button; and despite the new wave of financial turmoil, they are probably right.

The wild stock market swings have been exacerbated by two factors unconnected with government policies — the resumed slide in the Japanese yen which is affecting all markets, and the exaggerated impact on prices of thin holiday trading. Provided that the Government's reform drive does not lose momentum, it is too early to conclude that Russia's breathing space has vanished along with investor confidence.

The IMF package has given the Government a bit more time to turn sentiment around: the central bank has sufficient reserves to meet its obligations for the moment without having to auction more treasury bonds. The banks' need for liquidity makes it harder, but not impossible, to keep to the austerity programme agreed with the IMF. Russian tax inspectors are becoming considerably more efficient at targeting evaders, and since Anatoli Chubais was put in charge of tax collection, revenues have inched upwards, admittedly from a calamitously low base. If the Duma continues to refuse to interrupt its summer break, Boris Yeltsin can just keep issuing decrees.

Russia is, however, going to need more money from the West before December, to meet the short-term debt obligations that fall due then. The shortfall is likely to be around \$3 billion, even if domestic savers take some of the pain. The priority must be to avoid devaluation, which would be disastrous both for the banking system and for Russian corporations with heavy and largely unhedged foreign borrowings.

It is the most perilous of balancing acts, but the frayed rope has not snapped. For now, the most important thing governments can do is to pile pressure on to Japan, whose failure to tackle its own inherently manageable crisis is affecting confidence everywhere and thus compounding Russia's problems. Japan's political mess could yet bring about a global depression. And nobody would then be in a position to help Russia to help itself.

CONTINENTAL DRIFT

Cook's EU agenda is neither original nor radical

The Foreign Secretary used an interview with the *New Statesman* published yesterday to outline three "new", allegedly "big", ideas — couched in a constructively sceptical tone — that would be the core of Britain's submission to an EU summit in October. That meeting in Vienna is supposed to set a direction for the future of the European Union. Other governments will be able to update themselves on his thinking from their filing cabinets, rather than his embassy fax machines in London.

Mr Cook's principles are respectable in themselves. He would like the European Commission to stop issuing detailed directives that must then be enshrined in national law, and instead set minimum standards that member states would find their own means of implementing. He also stated that the EU should develop a code on subsidiarity, clearly spelling out the respective responsibilities of the EU and of national governments. Finally, the Foreign Secretary would introduce a new European Forum, made up of national MPs, to scrutinise EU legislation more rigorously. The first two aspirations were shared by the Major Government. The last has been promoted by numerous politicians.

They are not exactly novel in the European context either. The single market project launched in 1985 was meant to be based on the idea of "mutual recognition" by all member states of each other's standards. It did so for a number of years but Mr Cook appears to be conceding, as was argued in our business pages on Tuesday, that Brussels is once more hankering after "harmonisation". That itch has been encouraged by the onset of the euro — a single currency which demonstrates that the single market will not complete but complicate the single market.

This implies a failure by those who are

meant to exercise control over the European Commission. The notion of a clean division between European and national spheres of responsibility also has a certain familiarity. These distinctions were supposed to be settled by the Maastricht and Amsterdam treaties. The Foreign Secretary appears to acknowledge now that those documents contained enormous ambiguities. His proposals are likely to reinforce them. Mr Cook claims that certain "cross-border" issues — such as "the environment, trade, property" — must inevitably be dealt with by Brussels. It is hard to imagine what aspects of economic life currently under national control could not be forced into one of these categories.

The idea of a European Forum for national parliaments is prehistoric. The original European Parliament consisted of such delegations until direct elections were introduced 20 years ago. This democratic legitimacy, it was presumed, would enable the Parliament to become a popular and effective institution. It has not succeeded on either dimension. The Westminster Parliament remains the body best placed to examine European proposals. The House of Commons Select Committee on European legislation might find this task a little easier if Whitehall departments, notably the Treasury, provided it with the relevant material in a rather more timely manner.

The Foreign Secretary has chosen to assume that "Maastricht was a high-water mark of integration". This is an extraordinary sentiment to express with the advent of a single currency imminent. The Government decided to use its presidency of the EU to press its partners for a special summit on Europe's future. That conference does offer Mr Cook the chance to offer a blueprint for enhanced democracy and reduced regulation. He will not exploit it without a much more original, radical and realistic agenda.

OLD DOGS, NEW TRICKS

'Age diversity' should have no place in the political lexicon

Nowadays it only takes the travails of the fifth decade of Man's Seven Ages to etch wrinkles on the brow. The Employment Minister, Andrew Smith, seems at only 47 to be already sensitive to the setting sun. Two years older than Tony Blair, he is still only a junior minister. Yesterday he tried to raise his profile by lecturing Britain's employers on something which he may soon have reason to fear: the evils of age discrimination. Unfortunately for Mr Smith, the document he published yesterday will not help his chances of promotion.

Mr Smith is concerned about the fact that, by 2006, more than a quarter of the workforce will be aged 50 or more. Quite rightly, he wants them to be able to keep or find employment. But rather than working wisely with the grain of human nature to encourage a more flexible approach, Mr Smith is itching to brandish a big bureaucratic stick.

The Employment Minister plans to produce a Code of Practice which would direct employers to recognise the benefits of "an age-diverse workforce". This hideous new phrase — and Mr Smith's whole strategy — betrays a dreary aggro obsession with "fighting prejudice" in a politically correct fashion, rather than making and winning pragmatic arguments about real people. There is no fixed age at which someone

suddenly becomes suitable or unsuitable for a job. Fitness and health withstanding, it is a person's skill and ability that should determine their employability.

Common sense teaches this much, but political correctness makes of the insight, as it does others, a tool of intolerance. Those who act in the name of the abstract god "diversity", whether of gender, race or age, end up insisting on strict rules which fetter free choice. But freedom is the best guarantee of genuine pluralism, and of tolerance. Those who insist that employers be coerced into recruiting more people on the basis of sex, ethnicity or age will only fuel resentment. They will also cripple those they try to advance by feeding the suspicion that any aged, black or female employee is hired not on merit but for characteristics which have nothing to do with the job.

Governments can, nevertheless, still make a difference, but it will always be marginal. Employers could be reminded of the benefits that accrue from hiring the experienced. Older workers might be offered retraining. And bosses can be told that the market will punish any firm which does not recruit the very best employees, whatever their age or background. The market, like time, cannot be cheated for long and this Government would be wiser if it left its lectures for others.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Folly of losing vocational training in new universities

From Dr George Brosan

Sir, Your leading article of August 11, "The numbers game", refers to the Major Government's forlorn attempt "to end intellectual snobbery" by abolishing the binary divide between polytechnics and universities.

We have been here before. It is now over a quarter of a century since Eric Robinson, Tyrrell Burgess and I tried to set out the distinctive but complementary functions of these two institutions.

In brief, the polytechnics' role was to further the application of knowledge, as distinct from the acquisition of knowledge for its own sake pursued by the universities. We also advocated that polytechnic students should be likely to benefit, not merely to succeed academically. There was, quite deliberately, a large vocational bias at the poly.

Unhappily, in a vain effort to overcome the huge discrepancies in funding, the Major Government turned poly into universities, just when many universities were becoming much more polytechnic-like. The vocational impact was lost in "the numbers game", perhaps for good. By some means it should be rediscovered.

Yours etc,

GEORGE BROSAN
(Director,
NE London Polytechnic, 1970-82,
Winton Dene,
Ashen, Suffolk CO10 8JN,
August 11)

From Professor John Spencer

Sir, In your admirable leading article today on the dangers of inflation in higher education, you refer to Britain as having had, before the late 1980s, the highest number of graduates (proportionately) of any country in Western Europe, while only 18 per

cent of British employees possessed craft skills compared with over 50 per cent in Germany.

Ten years ago I visited a *gymnasium* ("grammar school") in a small, prosperous town close to the Bavarian university at which I was then teaching. I assumed that most of its pupils would stay at school until they were 18 or 19 years old, and then go on to university.

Not at all. The principal explained that over half his pupils left at 16 and took up apprenticeships (though the German term *lehrtstelle* covers a much wider range of traineeships, from baking and plumbing to publishing and bookkeeping, for example).

Three years of approved apprenticeship in their trade or profession, with regular day-release attendance at a technical college, led to qualification as a skilled worker, the training programmes being supported and monitored by employers' organisations and trade unions. However, a further three years were required before a skilled worker could become a *meister*, permitted to employ or train others. In this way, the principal told me, a pupil could expect to become a *meister* before a contemporary became *magister* (the first degree in Bavarian universities).

I understand that this system still pertains on a federal basis. Could it be one of the reasons why Germany's productivity per worker is higher than Britain's, and why so much of our manufacturing capacity has been lost? Increasing the numbers in higher and further education is unlikely to remedy this.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SPENCER
(Professor of English and Linguistics,
University of Bayreuth, 1984-91),
Hawthorn Cottage,
Blockley, Gloucestershire GL56 9HF,
August 11)

PoWs pay

From Mr Maurice Baird-Smith, DFC

Sir, It is good news that the Swiss have agreed to repay the victims of the Holocaust the money and gold stolen by the Nazis (World in brief, August 13). Yet relatively few are still around.

Is it too much to hope that HMG will, at last, make the same gesture and repay PoWs the money deducted from their pay whilst they were in captivity? As is the case with the Jewish survivors, there are not many still around. Are ministers delaying in the hope that the problem will inevitably "go away"?

Yours sincerely,

MAURICE BAIRD-SMITH
(Stalag Luft 3, 1943-45),
Residence de Croisset,
26 Boulevard de Rothschild,
Grosbois 06150,
August 13)

Embassy bombings

From Mr Ansel Harris

Sir, During the Gulf War, Israel, a non-combatant, suffered a series of Scud missile attacks. She was prevailed upon not to retaliate.

On January 5, 1991, you published a letter from me, urging that this co-operation, acknowledged at the time at least by the Government of the United States, should not be forgotten "when the post-Kuwait settlement is negotiated".

Now we witness a powerful, immediate and effective humanitarian response by Israel to the criminal bombings in Nairobi.

It is again to be hoped that this further manifestation by Israel of positive goodwill reactions to crisis and the urgent needs of the area will not be forgotten.

Yours faithfully,

ANSEL HARRIS,
35 The Priors, NW3 1EP,
leams@classic.msn.com
August 11

Compensation awards

From Dr David Cohen

Sir, I am a retired solicitor. Long ago I did a certain amount of negligence work and I think that, like others in my profession, I helped those who had been wronged. Although I was paid, I was not "setting out to make money" (letter, August 11) from someone's mistake.

My wife recently had an operation. The surgeon will be paid but I would not suggest that he set out to make money from my wife's misfortune.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID COHEN,
Broadside,
Admirals Walk, NW3 6RS,
August 11

Paper chase

From Mr Maurice Jay

Sir, I have recently helped a friend to complete an application form for housing benefit. The form has 12 pages and contains over 200 questions.

In returning it, my friend was obliged to enclose photocopies of no fewer than 16 documents.

Yours etc,

MAURICE JAY,
15 Waterloo Court, NW11 7DT,
August 13

Nurses need to feel highly prized

From the General Secretary of the Royal College of Nursing

Sir, Professor Roger Dyson's assertions on why we have the worst nurse shortage crisis for 25 years do not stand up to scrutiny (letters, August 11).

Under the Project 2000 nurse training programme, instituted in the late 1980s, greater emphasis was placed on acquiring knowledge, while the importance of gaining practical skills and experience was retained through placements in hospitals and community health services. The RCN wanted nurse training to be moved into higher education in order to improve patient care, not to increase nurses' pay.

Today's nursing students can undertake a degree or a diploma, both resulting in registered nurse status. The wide entry gate is not restricted to "academic" qualifications, as Professor Dyson is suggesting: students can enter through NVQs (national vocational qualifications) or through recognised access courses.

Of course there are improvements to be made in nurse education, especially in support of students in the workplace. But we cannot blame nurse shortages on nurse education. There are many reasons, including low pay, no proper career pathway, inflexible working conditions and unacceptable workloads; but underlying them all is the fact that nursing is not sufficiently valued.

The irony is that when we value nurses properly not only do we have a strong and motivated workforce, but patients also enjoy higher standards of care. In the United States, studies show that where nurses are highly prized and given more control

organising patient care, death rates have reduced by 5 per cent.

Pay is now a vital reflection of how much nursing is valued in the NHS — and that is where we have to begin — for the sake of nurses and patients.

Yours sincerely,

CHRISTINE HANCOCK,
General Secretary,
Royal College of Nursing,
20 Cavendish Square, W1M 0AB,
August 11

From Mr Tim Dodd

Sir, Through the experience of sharing my life for the last three years with a nurse, combined with lengthy discussions with her friends and colleagues, I would argue that among the overriding reasons for leaving the profession are the antisocial, physically and mentally draining shift patterns.

A typical shift pattern can often include 10-14 days continuously at work and include a random mixture of nights, late and early shifts. The body never has time to adjust to this pattern, with the result that days off are spent in sleep, just to recover in time for the next day at work.

How many unions in the commercial world would sit back and allow this to be commonplace? Is it not time for the Royal College of Nursing to put as much effort into improving working conditions as they exert on their justifiable campaign for better pay?

Yours,

TIM DODD,
2 Atworth Grove,
Littleover, Derbyshire DE23 7WZ,
tdodd1023@aol.com
August 11

Testing times

From Mr Giles Gordon

Sir, As a Scot who loves cricket (and rejoices that Scotland has qualified for the next World Cup), I am bewildered by the response accorded by the English to their team's victory in the final Test against South Africa (letters, August 11 and 12).

Your leading article (August 11) accepts that the umpiring decisions were atrocious. With adjudication of this standard, does it matter who "wins"? The game is little more than Russian roulette: the result utterly arbitrary.

Unless umpiring is radically improved the integrity of cricket is lost. No wonder the players are increasingly appealing in unappealing ways, when they know perfectly well that a batsman is not out, but a blinkered, deaf or cowed umpire may well say he is.

Yours faithfully,

GILES GORDON,
6 Ann Street, Edinburgh EH4 1PJ,
August 11

From Mr C. J. Buttwell

Sir, Having, as I do, Scottish family connections, would it be churlish of me to exult at the English cricket team's triumph under the leadership of a Stewart?

Yours faithfully,

C. J. BUTTWELL,
112 City Road, Cardiff CF2 3DQ,
August 13

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046, e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

The myths that surround mink

From the Director of Animal Aid

Sir, The anthropomorphic attitude taken over the released mink in Hampshire (reports, August 10 and 11) is totally over-the-top and incorrect. Mink are not evil, spiteful killing machines whose only aim in life are to cause havoc, decimate nature and kill human babies. In fact, there is no verified case of a mink attacking a human being.

There are in the wild approximately 110,000 breeding mink in the UK. This figure has remained constant for the last 50 years — ever since they were released by defunct fur farms in the 1950s. Mink are solitary creatures who mark out territory a mile apart from each other. Their foodstuffs include vegetation as well as meat.

Argument has gone back and forth in scientific journals for many years over the order of mink in the food chain — some saying that foxes, weasels and stoats are higher.

In their 50 years on the loose in the UK mink have caused no demonstrable impact on any other species, except to the water vole in certain areas where the river is in an unhealthy state due to pollution and the clearance of vegetation, thus exposing the vole's habitat.

So let's stop demonising a species which has become part of the British countryside and instead look at the real issue of animal abuse — keeping wild animals in small cages to turn into fashion items.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW TYLER,
Director, Animal Aid,
The Old Chapel, Bradford Street,
Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1AW,
August 12

From the Executive Officer of the British Fur Trade Association

Sir, The Government's pre-election pledge to close Britain's mink farms (report, August 10) will destroy farmers' livelihoods. This is a draconian measure, when other options exist to ensure best practice and high standards of animal welfare.

If concern for animal welfare is the reason for the ban, progress on this issue must go forward on available scientific evidence and in accordance with national and international law, not on sentiment.

Elliot Morley, the junior Agriculture Minister responsible for animal welfare, said in Parliament last year (*Hansard*, November 4) that the Government will be working within the Council of Europe to ensure the highest possible standards consistent with scientific evidence and expert opinion in relation to European fur farming. This is also the objective of British mink farmers.

The common goal for us all — government, pressure groups and farmers — must be the maintenance and improvement of animal welfare, where appropriate.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT MORGAN,
Executive Officer,
British Fur Trade Association,
Brookstone House,
6 Elthorne Road, N19 4AG,
August 11

Elgar misunderstood

From Mr John Young

Sir, May I suggest to Daniel Johnson (article, August 7) two possible reasons why the great Elgar does not receive the honour that is his due. One is his supposed jingoism, whereas in truth he dreaded and was deeply depressed by the First World War.

The Pomp and Circumstance marches, particularly numbers one and four, are very good pieces of their kind, and no reasonable person would take exception to the words (for which, needless to say, Elgar was not responsible).

The other is that he was a Catholic. I recently read a critic describe the story and words of *The Dream of Gerontius* (again not written by the composer but by John Henry Newman) as "nauseating".

Yours faithfully,

JOHN YOUNG,
37 Dewhurst Road, W14 0ES,
johnny@easynet.co.uk
August 7

From Mr Patrick Howarth

Sir, Daniel Johnson's spirited championing of Elgar and your revelation (article, Arts, and leading article, July 27) that Elgar composed the first football chant have caused me to wonder about the validity of the lines (Anon):

Sir Edward Elgar of good intent
was a musical and sporting gent

Yours faithfully,

PATRICK HOWARTH,
Flat 2, Pencarrow,
The Avenue, Sherborne,
Dorset DT9 3AJ,
August 9

To boldly go

From Mr A. J. Saunders

Sir, May I be the first to roundly condemn *The New Oxford Dictionary of English* for allowing the use of split infinitives (report, August 13)?

Yours etc,

A. J. SAUNDERS,
16 Silchester Way,
Westlea, Swindon SN5 7EA,
August 13

Forthcoming marriages

The following candidates have been admitted to Corporate Membership, Associate Membership and Technician Membership of the Institution of Civil Engineers following the successful completion of the 1998 Spring session of the Professional Reviews:

[illegible]

Nigel.
Sanderson, Gary John; Searle,
Neil Andrew; Sevenson, William John
Shuckleton, Margaret Joy
Siddons, John; Sime, Alan; Smith,
Simpson, Charles; Clark, Smith,
David; Meldrum Smith, David; Mon-
aghan, Smith, Guy; Parnell,
Parnell, Simon; Nicholas,
Nicholas; Solomons, David; Richard-
Speller, Richard; Spence, Jonathan
Spence, Jonathan; Kenneth James
Stewart, David; Storchhouse, Martin
Henry; Swanson, Angus; Neil
Swanson, John Grant.

Talbott, Stephen; Davidson, Thomas
Talbott, Stephen; Thompson, Claran
Michael; Thompson, Sharon Valerie;
Threlk, Richard Mark; Travers, Gary
Patrick; Turner, Bridget Kathryn;
Turner, Ian David; Turner, Ian
Turner, Kenneth; Turner, Robert;
Wallace, Alan Richard; Walton,
Carolyn; Ward, David Leslie; War-
ren, Timothy John; Wells, Ruth
Wells, Alan; Wells (RUEH),
Philip John; Whaley, Kevin Stuart;
Whaley, Philip Anthony; Whelan?
Matthew James; Whelan, Mark
Whelan, Mark; Whelan, David;
Robert James Hamilton; Wilson,
James; Findlay, Willes, Caroline
Mary; Williamson, Andrew David
Williamson, Andrew; Wilson, James
Wilson, Tony; James, James
Sarah Louise.

Abraham, Adenokumbo Adeniyi;
Anderson, Paul Roderick; Baldwin,
Ivan Miguel; Ball, Darren Trevor;
Beane, Simon George; Davie,
Bosworth, Jason Peter; Broad, Gavin
John; Brown, Tinsin Jane; Carr,
David Simon; Connell, Simon Peter;

Marika du Rietz, in an original mid-Thirties satin evening gown, takes a look at herself in a 1930 Peach mirror with acid-etched floral design. Her next step: a drink in an Art Deco cocktail lounge at The Great Antiques Fair, which opened yesterday at Earls Court. The lounge was created by Eccles Jerome of Jazzy Art Deco Furniture in line with the theme — Step Back in Time to the Jazz Age.

Mr P. Deasy
and **Miss A.V. Priestley**
The marriage took place on
Saturday, July 18, in the Lady
Chapel, Westminster Abbey, of Mr
Patrick Deasy, son of Mr and Mrs
Michael Deasy, to Miss Alison
Priestley, daughter of Mr Clive
Priestley and Mrs Barbara
Priestley. The Dean of West-

The bride was attended by Mrs Rebecca Rubens.
Mr F.J. Mercer
and Miss R.J.E. Jones.
The marriage took place on
Friday, August 7, in St Helier,
Jersey, of Peter Mercer, elder son
of Mr and Mrs James Mercer, of
Formby, Lancashire, to Rachel
Jones, only daughter of Professor
R.E. Jones and Mrs Chioe Jones, of

Anniversaries

Band of the Blues & Royals (Royal Horse Guards & 1st Dragoons), the Director of Music of the Band of the Welsh Guards and the Director of Music of the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers were the guests of honour.

The following have been elected officers of the Barbers' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Alderman Sir John Chalmers; Upper Warden, Lord McColl of Dulwich; Middle Warden, Mr George Gram Macdonald; Renter Warden, Mr William Stewart Shand; Deputy Master, Mr Anthony John Bartley Missen.

BIRTHS: Sir Walter Besant, novelist and philanthropist, Portsmouth, 1836; Baron Richard von Krafft-Ebing, neuro-psychiatrist, Mannheim, Germany, 1840; John Galsworthy, novelist and dramatist, Nobel laureate 1932, Kingston Hill, Surrey, 1867.

DEATHS: Augustus Toplady, clergyman and hymn writer, London, 1778; John William Fletcher, clergyman, Madeley, Shropshire, 1785; George Colman the Elder, dramatist, London, 1794; Johann Herbart, philosopher, Göttingen, 1841; William Buckland, geologist, London, 1856; George Combe, phrenologist, Edinburgh, 1858; Colin Campbell, poet, London, 1861; Alfred Chatham, 1863; Richard Jefferies, writer, Goring, Sussex, 1887; Alfred Harmsworth,

London
Queen Mary and Westfield
College
APPOINTMENTS
The following appointments
have been made:
Choir

Dr Julian Evans (Brunel),
Materials
Mr Peter Muchlinchies (LSE),
Drapers' Chair of Law
Professor David Wootton
(Brunel, 18th Century History)
Professor Michael Blakeney
(Murdoch, Perth), Herschel
Smith Chair of Intellectual
Property Law
Professor Richard Baillie
(Michigan State), Economics
Professor Martin Thornhill
(Manchester), Clinical Oral
Science
Dr Anne Janowitz (Warwick),
English
Dr Peter Covey (Schlumberger
Cambridge Research),
Physical Chemistry
Readership
Dr David Vaughan Griffiths
(Essex), Organic Chemistry
PROMOTIONS
The title of Professor has been
conferred on the following:
Dr David Arrowsmith, Mathemat-
ics
Dr Mohammad
Alilabadi, Computational Me-

chatics; Dr Nicholas Jennings, Intelligent Systems; Dr K E Tanner, Biomedical Materials; Ms Geraldine Van Bueren, International Human Rights Law; Mr Roger Lee, Geography; Dr Kate Cosmopolou, Paediatrics; Dr Peter Koppelman, Clinical Medicine; Dr Richard Leslie, Diabetes and Autoimmunity; Dr Martin Savage, Paediatric Endocrinology; Dr Hugh Makin, Analytical Biochemistry; Dr Jacqueline Burrin, Experimental Endocrinology; Dr David Lowe, Surgical Pathology; Dr Malgorzata Fitzmaurice, Public International Law.

The title of Reader has been conferred on the following:

Dr David Evans, Gastrointestinal Science; Dr Leonard Soicher, Mathematics; Dr Mark Canfield, Clinical Pharmacology; Dr Robert Paul, Logic; Dr Paul Harrison, Particle Physics; Dr Charles Marson, Organic Chemistry; Dr Richard Nichols, Genetics; Dr Jamal OuHalla, Linguistics.

The following have been promoted to Senior Lecturer:

Dr Virginia Davis, History; Dr Michael Rees, Materials;

Dr Roger Evans, Biological Sciences; Dr Andrew Leitch, Biological Sciences; Dr Roger Nix, Chemistry; Dr Supriya Kappas, Dental School. The following titles have been conferred:

Emeritus Professor
Professor E H Andrews, Materials; Professor V Bulmer, Thomas, Economics; Professor G F Coulours, Computer Systems; Professor R S Clymo, Kalmus, Physics; Professor J C Lahore, Intellectual Property Law; Professor H M Liddell, Parallel Computing Applications; Professor S Tabagchani, Microbiology; Professor A H Waters, Haematology; Professor G J Zellik, Law.

Emeritus Reader
Dr K D Sales, Chemistry; Dr D Sims, applied Mathematics; Dr D S Urrah, Physical Chemistry.

Dr Keith Aldred, Financial Secretary, to be Secretary and Registrar.

Professor David Williams, Dean of the Faculty of Clinical Dentistry, to be Deputy Warden of the School of Medicine and Dentistry.

members

Allan, Nicholas Michael; Ashley, John; Bendon, David; Jones, Carroll; Johns, Duane; Nigs, Dante; Alexander Graham Evans; David A. Richmond; Robert C. Roberts; William E. Shreve; Paraphernalia, James Dawson Macintosh; Ferguson, Sam; James Gifford; Lyster, Groverman; Martin Williams; Gunderick, Mitchell.

Heldberg, Benjamin Howarth; Martin John; Jennings, Scott; Jones, Leigh; Lane, Ian Roger; Peck, Michael Simon; Purpy, Tracy Ann; Pettit, Robert M.; Robert R. Perry; Shade, Derek James; Steel, Richard James; Stewart, Paul; David Todd; Jeffrey Martin; Whigsworth, Craig.

The RRHAP denotes those candidates who have won the Redfern Hunt Memorial Prize and an asterisk (*) denotes those candidates who were commended on the standstill.

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ing of the sun to its setting may
the name of the Lord be praised.
Psalms 113: 23

BIRTHS	MARRIAGES
ANDELL - On August 11th 1939, to Louise (nee Foster) and Paul, a daughter, Mary Louise.	WILSON - On August 11th 1939, to Mrs. Wm. H. Wilson and Mrs. Wm. H. Wilson, a daughter, Mary Louise.
ASPIN - On August 2nd 1939 to Lucy and David, a first grandchild for Helen and a second for John and a second for Jean and John.	HUNTER - On August 11th 1939, to Mrs. Wm. H. Hunter and Mrs. Wm. H. Hunter, a daughter, Mary Louise.
BELL - On Saturday August 10th at St. Michael's Hospital Bristol to Judi (nee Mary) and Adam, a beautiful daughter, Sophie Seymour.	LEES - On August 11th 1939, to Mrs. Wm. H. Lees and Mrs. Wm. H. Lees, a daughter, Mary Louise.
BURTON - On August 11th 1939 to Alison (nee Leeseby) and Ruth, a daughter, Mary Louise.	MACDONALD - On August 11th 1939, to Mrs. Wm. H. MacDonald and Mrs. Wm. H. MacDonald, a daughter, Mary Louise.
BURTON - On August 11th 1939 to Alison (nee Leeseby) and Ruth, a daughter, Mary Louise.	MOSLEY - On August 11th 1939, to Mrs. Wm. H. Mosley and Mrs. Wm. H. Mosley, a daughter, Mary Louise.
BURTON - On August 11th 1939 to Alison (nee Leeseby) and Ruth, a daughter, Mary Louise.	WILLIAMS - On August 11th 1939, to Mrs. Wm. H. Williams and Mrs. Wm. H. Williams, a daughter, Mary Louise.
CLACKSON - Tom and Michelle have great pleasure in announcing the birth of their beautiful daughter, Elaine Mollie, on July 4th 1939, a sister for Joanne.	WILLIAMS - On August 11th 1939, to Mrs. Wm. H. Williams and Mrs. Wm. H. Williams, a daughter, Mary Louise.
EDGAR - On August 12th to Elma (nee Nagornickich) and George, a daughter, Katherine Maria, a sister for Anna.	WILLIAMS - On August 11th 1939, to Mrs. Wm. H. Williams and Mrs. Wm. H. Williams, a daughter, Mary Louise.
GARGA - On August 10th at the Portland Hospital to Nicole (nee Mustakant) and Philip, a son, a brother for George.	WILLIAMS - On August 11th 1939, to Mrs. Wm. H. Williams and Mrs. Wm. H. Williams, a daughter, Mary Louise.
GRYNN - On August 12th 1939, to Jane (nee Bustin) and David, a son, Isaac.	WILLIAMS - On August 11th 1939, to Mrs. Wm. H. Williams and Mrs. Wm. H. Williams, a daughter, Mary Louise.
HASTINGS - On July 1st at the Portland Hospital to Twente and Lee, an adorable baby daughter, Emily, a brother for Tamsyn.	WILLIAMS - On August 11th 1939, to Mrs. Wm. H. Williams and Mrs. Wm. H. Williams, a daughter, Mary Louise.

BIRTHS

MORHOUSE - On August 11th to Kate (nee Weston) and Paul, a son (Mrs. Williams), another brother for Allen and grandfather Charles, Aileen and Jack.

HUMPHREY - Ben and Frances are delighted to welcome the birth arrival of Dylan Peter, a son, born August 7th at Turbury Hospital.

LEES - On August 11th to Rachel (sister) and Rachel, a daughter, Imogen Jane.

MACPHERSON - To Campbell and Jane nee Purjay a son, Charles Campbell, born on 20th July in Sydney, Australia, a sister for Emily Catherine.

MOSTYN - On August 4th 1968 to Lucy (nee Watts) and Nicholas, a son, Christopher, born on 27th for Henry, Daisy and Gregory.

MURPHY - On 10th August 1968 to Elizabeth and Lyndon, a daughter, Sophie Elizabeth, a sister for Emily.

PEDDIE - On August 3rd 1968, to Nina (nee Aaral) and Alfred, a daughter, Catherine, a sister for Tom.

ROSS - On August 10th at Crawley Hospital to Martin and Eleanor (nee James), a son, Marcus, a brother for Hannah.

STALICK - On July 26th at The Portland Hospital to Mrs. Irene Gosman and Derek, a handsome son, Sharon Corry, a brother for Paul and Susan.

SWYNE - On 17th July at HYMS to Sue and John, a son, Alexander Elliott Williams, a brother for Susan and John.

TODD - On August 1st 1968 to Don and Joan, a son, Peter Simon.

UNWIN - On August 11th, to Arlene and John, a daughter, a sister for Elizabeth.

RUBY ANNIVERSARY

NORMAN-PEARCE - August 11th 1968 to Margaret, a daughter, FILL Hamilton, a daughter.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

BESEY-SMITH - August 19th 1968 to Kevin, John, Elizabeth and Susan, four daughters, a sister for Brynley Lee Chislehurst.

To death
acknowledged
or notices

DEATHS

WESTBERRY - The late Mrs. Mary Westberry of New York, wife of the late William Westberry, died peacefully in her 84th year at the home of her daughter, Mrs. William Westberry, 1100 W. 12th Street, on August 18th. She was a member of the St. Thomas Church, Wells. Burial at 2:00pm on August 19th, to the family plot at Holy Cross cemetery, Bath. At 3:30pm, No flowers. Donations may be made to Christian Aid, Ordian or the British Red Cross Society, 17 Wickes and Son, 73 High Street, Wells, BA5 3AG. (1474)

BROWNE - Gordon aged 86, brother of Sylvia and Douglas, died peacefully in his 86th year at home on August 10th.

BRUCE - Jennifer M.B.E., 51, formerly of 10, The Priory, The Belsouth Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy and with a Neurological Disability, died peacefully on August 16th at home on August 17th. Family flowers only. Donations to the British Red Cross Society. Celebration of her life to be announced.

CAMPBELL - Née Elizabeth Margaret Lyla, MSc, of Beckenham Kent, aged 78. Peacefully at home on Tuesday August 11th. Much loved wife of Allen, mother of David and Neil and grandma to Tom, James, Polly, Carol and Allen. Funeral at Beckenham Crematorium on Tuesday 18th August at 3:30pm. A Memorial Service will be announced later. No flowers please, donations if desired to the British Red Cross Society, 17 Wickes and Son, 73 High Street, Wells, BA5 3AG. SNT 0181 050 2253.

CLARK - Anthony, At home in Berkhamshead at August 8th. Father of Marie-Ellise and Cathie. Requiem Mass at 10.00am on Tuesday, August 10th. Cathedral on Thursday August 20th at 12.00 noon. No flowers. Donations to British Royal Foundation c/o J J Worley General Directors Ltd, 94-96, The Quadrant, Berkhamshead, Herts HP4 1HT. Tel: 01423 870326.

COOPER - Frank on August 11th 1998 died peacefully at home. Beloved husband of Hilary, Father of Jonathan and Cathie. Funeral service at St Mary's Parish Church, Almondsbury, near Bristol at 12 noon on Tuesday August 18th 1998 followed by interment. Donations for the Mary Kay for Life c/o Co-operative Funeral Services, 50 High Street, Wells, BA5 3AG, Bristol. SS53 30J.

[illegible]

PLANTS - **Pascallity** - Mrs. J. M. Pascall, 1040
Hill Street, New York 17, N.Y.
died August 29th, aged 87, of
Iris Castellanidae, much
loved wife of the late
Robert John Pascall and
mother of the late
Clyde C. Pascall and
Clyde C. Pascall at Putney
Vale Crematorium on
Wednesday August 22
noon followed by
interment of cremated
remains in the family
flowers only or in last
donations to the
Crematorium.
Society, Enquiries to
Messrs & Cochrill, 169
Chancery Lane, London
WC2E 8SF. Tel: 011 871 874
7898.

FOUNTLEY - **Stuart F.R.I.C.S.**,
died 9th August 1988.
Funeral on Tuesday 22nd
Crematorium 3.30pm.
Funeral only at Crematorium,
August 18th. Simple
funeral at Crematorium,
Highlands Road,
Leatherhead.
Tel: 0181 874 7898.

GAFFNEY - Ray, beloved
husband of Clara, loving
and proud father of
Patrick, Alice and Allan.
Ray was a devoted
loved brother and mate.
Died peacefully at home
on Wednesday August 19th
after a long illness fought with
bravery, humour and
determination. Cremation
on Tuesday 22nd August
at Mortlake.
Crematorium. No flowers.
Funeral service 11.30am
19 Archel Road, London.
W14 9QJ.

HUTCHINGS - On August
10th 1988 as the result of
a road accident, Robert
Leslie Hutchings, dearly
loved husband of the late
Elizabeth Ann, devoted
father of Jonathan and
Christopher, and member of service St
Helen's Church, Abingdon
on Wednesday August 10th
at Abingdon Crematory.

LOMAK - **Joanna Rosemary**,
peacefully on August 12th
aged 67 years, daughter of
Said, much loved wife of
the late Lomax, step-mother
to David Michael and
Sarah and devoted
daughter of John Hester
and loving sister to Roland
and Carol. Funeral service
to be held at All Saints'
Church, Deane, near
Basingstoke on
Wednesday August 19th
at 11.00am. Donations if
required to the Royal
Alexandria Fund c/o
Annie Dyer, 1 Seal
Road, Basingstoke, RG21
7BN.

STENT - **Neelke Cornelia**
("Nelly") nee de Vries on
11th August 1988 the
dearly loved wife of J A G
Stent of Liss Hampshire.

STUDY - **Will 1936 - 1988**.
Died peacefully and
surprisingly on August 10th
after a long illness. Widow
of the Rev. John Study,
member, grandmaster and
Pastor and Headmaster of
Sancton Wood School,
Cambridge. Her strength
of character and
inexhaustible reserves of
love will be deeply missed.
Funeral service at Gosville
and Calve Church
Cambridge, Friday 21st
August at 11.00am. Family
flowers only.

MEMORIAL SERVICES	UK HOLIDAYS
<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

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OBITUARIES

EVE BOSWELL

Eve Boswell, popular singer, died in Durban, South Africa, yesterday, aged 76. She was born on May 11, 1922.

Of all the female singers who rose to prominence during the television and pop boom of the 1950s, Eve Boswell was the most glamorous and perhaps the most versatile. A petite (5 ft 2 in), vivacious brunette, she won immense popularity as a recording star which not only took her to the top of the British charts, but also to success in films, television, radio, cabaret, pantomime and variety, in which she topped the bill at the London Palladium, and in three Royal Command performances.

Born Eva Keleti in Budapest, Hungary, she came from showbusiness stock. Her aunt, the opera singer Elza Keleti, was the official vocal coach for the Royal Opera House in Budapest, and her parents toured the world as a juggling act, billed as The Three Hugos. Educated in Lausanne, Switzerland, she was taught tap-dancing, the clarinet and the alto saxophone by her father, and trained as a classical pianist at the Budapest Academy. She made her stage debut with the family troupe in 1938, at the age of 16.

The outbreak of war in 1939 found the Keleti family touring variety theatres in Britain. As their Hungarian nationality made them aliens, they accepted an offer from the Boswell Brothers' Circus in South Africa, where Eva fell in love with Trevor McIntosh, the nephew of the circus owners. They eloped and married against her parents' wishes in 1944, the year in which their son Michael was born.

McIntosh taught his wife English, changed her name to Eve Boswell (after the circus), and became her manager. As a solo singer, she joined Roy Martin and his band at the Coconut Grove, Johannesburg, and began to broadcast on South African radio. The English songwriter and pianist Adrian Foley — the 8th and present Baron Foley — was impressed by her interpretation of his compositions, and as a result of his recommendations, she received an offer from the British band leader, Geraldine, with whose orchestra she made her solo stage debut in England at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, on June 1, 1949.

Two months later, as Geraldine's vocalist, she made her first English recording, on the Parlophone label, and



From her South African roots, Eve Boswell rose to the London Palladium

then came to real prominence in April 1950 with the release of *I Can Dream*. In the same year, she dubbed the singing voice of the Hollywood star, Vera-Allen, in the film *Happy Go Lovely*, and in 1951 she was heard regularly on BBC Radio's *Hit Parade*, followed by *The Forces Show* with Richard Murdoch, Kenneth Horne, Jimmy Young and Dickie Valentine. Her first major hit, *Sugar Bush*, was released in August 1952 and made her one of Britain's most popular singers. In 1953 she co-starred with Harry Secombe in *Show of Shows* at Blackpool

Opera House, and appeared before the Queen in the Coronation Year Royal Command Performance at the London Coliseum. She had her own radio series in *Time to Dream* on the BBC and *Family Album* on Radio Luxembourg, followed by another summer season in *Happy and Glorious*, with Tommy Cooper, with whom she made her pantomime debut as principal boy in *Humpty Dumpty* in December 1954. She reached the peak of her career in 1955 with the release of *Blue Star*, a hauntingly tender ballad that remained her own favourite song. On its

B-side, she recorded a South African tune with new lyrics, *Pickin' A Chicken*. It rose to number nine in the charts, remaining there for 13 weeks.

In February 1956 she appeared on television in *Sunday Night at the London Palladium*, and a month later she topped the bill in variety at the same theatre. More hits followed, including *Young and Foolish*, *I'll Walk Alone* and *I'll Buy That Dream*, a film appearance with Adrienne Corri in *The Big Chance* in 1957, and two popular albums, *Sugar and Spice* and *Sentimental Eve*. She also appeared on American television in *The Ed Sullivan Show* and *The Nat King Cole TV Special*. In 1958 she joined Paul Robeson in *Sunday Night at the London Palladium*.

The 1960s brought a return to her native Hungary in her own television series. After the death of her husband, Trevor McIntosh, from cancer at the age of 52 in 1970, she opened her own singing studio in Wembley Park, and in 1973 she joined her former mentor, Geraldine, in the Harlech Television series *Time Was*.

In 1976 she returned to South Africa to marry the radio producer Henry Holloway, who produced her last recorded album, *I'm A Breeze*, (1979). They were divorced in 1985. In 1988, she made a third marriage to the South African insurance broker Kenneth Taylor. They divorced in 1997.

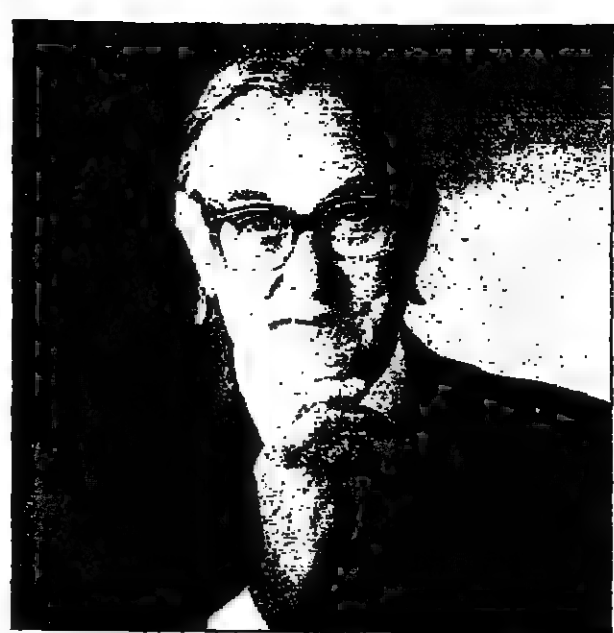
Her golden jubilee in showbusiness in 1988 was marked by the release in Britain of Hugh Palmer's Boswell compilation, *Sentimental Journey*, and she made her final British stage appearance at the Rock Theatre, Hayes, on July 28, 1988, still glamorous in a sequined black trouser-suit, and delighting her fans with the enduring strength and range of her voice.

The recent plunge of the South African rand had greatly reduced the value of her Durban home, and last month she spent two weeks at Brinsworth House, the Entertainment Artists' Benevolent Home at Twickenham, with a view to settling there permanently. Her visit was cut short by the news that her close friend, Luke Du Preez, whom she called "my unofficial adopted son", had been found dead at the age of 45 at her Durban home. She was on the point of disbanding her Durban singing school, which had 54 pupils, and moving back to Britain at the time of her own death.

She is survived by her son from her first marriage, Michael McIntosh.

DR PHILIP CONNELL

Dr Philip Connell, CBE, child psychiatrist and drug dependency expert, died on July 26 aged 75. He was born on August 6, 1921.



Connell: a particular interest in the outcomes of drug use

chairman of the Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence and president of the Society for the Study of Addiction.

His work as chairman of the Home Office's statutory advisory council on the misuse of drugs was not easy, for the council contained representatives of diverse points of view: those wanting to deal with the problem by changing society, those believing that social work was all, those who considered that the only effective preventive measures were detection and seizure of imports, and those who claimed that ending psychiatric services would cure addicts of their habit. He proved an excellent chairman, restraining exuberance while leaving enthusiasm intact.

His last major commitment was, though less well known, just as important. He was appointed to the General Medical Council by the Royal College of Psychiatrists for a period of 12 years, and became its screener for health, responsible for identifying sick doctors and accepting them under the health procedures so that

they could be treated rather than disciplined. It was his task to send doctors for medical and psychiatric examination, and then to prescribe appropriate limitations on their behaviour and practice, as well as setting up supervisory procedures designed to protect the public during the period of rehabilitation. This task called for compassion and firmness, and the overall success of the health procedures owed much to his efforts.

He always said he was not a narrow academic, but had to his credit a groundbreaking piece of research and many other publications, the training of many experts in drug dependence, and the care of many members of the medical profession. To have done well for students, colleagues, the specialty and the public is by no means an unacademic record.

He was married twice, first to Marjorie Gilham in 1948, by whom he had two sons. This marriage was dissolved, and in 1973 he married Cecily Mary Harper. He is survived by his wife and his two sons.

THE EARL OF JERSEY

The 9th Earl of Jersey died on August 9 aged 88. He was born on February 15, 1910.

The Earl of Jersey's long life was marked by extremes of happiness and tragedy that might have come from the pages of a Galsworthy saga. He inherited as 9th Earl at the age of 13, just as he went to Eton, but within a year he was struck down by rheumatic fever which affected his heart.

Making a good recovery, he grew to be an exceptionally handsome young man, and in 1932 he married an Australian beauty, Patricia Kenneth — from whom he was divorced in 1937. He then married the film actress Virginia Cherrill, who had starred as the blind girl in Chaplin's *City Lights* (1937) and was the former wife of Cary Grant.

In 1935 Lord Jersey gave the architect Sir Edwin Lutyens one of his last great country house commissions: to rebuild Middleton Park in Oxford-



Lord Jersey: a considerable connoisseur and collector

shire, where the family kept its numerous racehorses (one enthusiasm that Lord Jersey did not share). According to the memorial volumes of Lutyens's work, "much of the burden of discussion and all the weight of execution" was taken on by Lutyens's younger son, Robert, but the grand old man's contribution is evident in the extraordinary assurance and elegance of the house.

Lord Jersey was a considerable connoisseur and an early

collector of Impressionist paintings. During the war he became a major in the Grenadier Guards, serving in anti-aircraft command at Scapa Flow and becoming a radar instructor.

After the war his diverse interests included a successful antique and decorating shop. Divorced again in 1946, he fell in love with a beautiful young Italian girl, Bianca Mottroni, whom he married in 1947. Together they went to Jersey to see the island whence his title came, and liked it so much that they settled there.

Though few Jerseyans can have been aware that they had an earl, in 1997 Lord Jersey's ancestor had unusually been created Earl "of the Island of Jersey", where the young Charles II had lived for several months after fleeing from England. The 1st Earl was a first cousin of Charles's mistress Barbara Villiers. Lord Jersey was the first Earl to live in the island.

Shy and gentle, but witty and charming too, Lord Jersey will be remembered as a man



Osterley Park, the family seat, was opened to the public in 1939 and given to the National Trust ten years later

of extraordinary generosity, not only by his friends but by a number of curators. Among them was James Lees-Milne, to whom Lord Jersey gave a piece of fur to line his overcoat which got Lees-Milne through the "Arctic winters" of the war.

The family's great seat at Osterley Park in Middlesex had been advertised "to let" in *Country Life* in 1926, complete with furniture and paintings. Lord Jersey went to live there briefly in 1937 while Middleton was being rebuilt. Two years later he opened Osterley to the public, enterprisingly showing modern paintings on the upper floor as a contrast to the Adam furniture in the state rooms.

Like other owners who sought to give their houses to the nation or the county council, Lord Jersey was involved in years of fruitless negotiation, finally succeeding in giving the house and grounds to the National Trust in 1949, while the Victoria and Albert Museum acquired the furniture and took over opening.

Tragically, some of the family's best paintings, including a Rubens ceiling painting of the Apotheosis of the Duke of Buckingham and a Van Dyke of Charles I were burnt in a warehouse fire on their way to his new home.

Lord Jersey made a steady series of gifts to Osterley, which since the National Trust took over in the 1980s have included Sevres porcelain, superb silver (including two marvellous trays given by the Portuguese Jewish community to the Childs as Lord Mayors of London), Jersey racing cups and 18th-century Chinese parade vases, a Kirkman harpsichord, miniatures of the family and a suit of blue velvet which Lord Jersey had worn at the Georgian Group ball at Osterley in 1939, and which was copied from the Ramsay portrait of Francis Child. Today, largely at Lady Jersey's prompting, Osterley is constantly filled with flowers grown in the garden.

The great Adam remodel-

ing of Osterley had been begun for the banker Robert Child, and the house passed to the Jerseys in 1792, when it was left to a daughter, rather than a son, who had eloped. From that time the family carried the name of Child-Villiers. Lord Jersey, like the 19th-century earls who ran Child & Co, was on the board of a succession of banks.

He was also for a long period a director and major shareholder of the Hotel L'Horizon in Jersey, where at his insistence, champagne was sold without a mark-up so that guests could enjoy themselves to the full. To the distress of regulars, later owners failed to appreciate the excellence of this marketing strategy.

He was an early supporter of Gerald Durrell's Jersey Zoo, and first chairman of the Jersey Association of Youth and Friendship, which, with its hostels and flats, has been a pioneer in providing deprived young people with a start in life.

In the steep valleys surrounding Radier Manor, Lord

and Lady Jersey laid out lovely grounds, with the help of Michael Haworth Booth.

Lord Jersey took a strong interest in pedigree Jersey cattle, serving as president of the World Jersey Cattle Bureau. To ensure the purity of the native breed, no Jersey, however pedigree, is allowed back into the island, but Lord Jersey was active in the development of artificial insemination and the use of bull semen.

Lord Jersey was known to his friends as Grandy, from his family's courtesy title of Viscount Grandison. Last year he and his wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, but tragically both of his sons predeceased him. The younger, Charles, suddenly lost his hearing and died. The elder, George, Viscount Villiers, died of a heart attack in March this year, aged 49. Lord Jersey, who was in hospital with a broken ankle, never really recovered from the blow. His grandson, William, a 21-year-old actor, has succeeded as the 10th Earl.

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AIR RAIDS ON LONDON.

SEVEN ATTACKS IN AN HOUR.
(From Our Aeronautical Correspondent)

The opening of the Air Attack on London last night provided plenty of excitement, for within an hour seven bombing raids were concentrated on the Metropolis, and in a clear sky up to almost 10,000, closely km formations of bombers could be seen making their way to such targets as the Air Ministry and Chelsea, with fighting squadrons in hot pursuit, and here and there actually engaging them over the middle of London.

Until the umpires have appraised all the reports from the various commanders and observers it is difficult to say how the battle went, but there is every indication that yesterday the defenders were in the stronger position on all the daylight raids. One raiding party after another was engaged, often long before it reached the outskirts of London, and at Redhill, at one time there were nearly 40 aircraft concerned in the nearest approach to a real fight that peace time permits.

At about 7 o'clock there came quite a spectacular fight over the Air Ministry itself, when three bombers appeared under a cloud layer at 10,000 ft above Kingsway, followed soon afterwards by seven other bombers.

ON THIS DAY

August 14, 1928

Though these simulated "Air Raids on London" were carried out 11 years before the start of the Second World War, our Aeronautical Correspondent's account has a certain horrid reality when read today.

The fighters, however, followed them in and suddenly dived down from just above the cloud — nine machines in all. They split up into flights of three and in approved fashion each flight singled out a bomber: one dived on it from above, and the others came in on either side, raking it with fire. They then tackled the seven machines, but this formation preserved its position and must have put up a good fight. Observers in the City saw a squadron after squadron flying across the sky, and the opening phase of the Air Exercises has been full of activity on both sides.

The seven raids by the day bombers, presuming that all the machines had found targets, would have meant that about 20,000 lb of bombs would have been dropped on London within an hour. The raids were timed to take place at intervals of 15 minutes to half an hour. When the night phase started 32 machine raids were scheduled for the hours of darkness with a total weight in bombs of 32,000 lb — making an aggregate of over 23 tons. The targets for the day raids were the Beckton petrol dump, near Woolwich; No 1 Aircraft Stores, Kidbrooke; the North Tower, Crystal Palace; the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea; North Weald Aerodrome; Essex; Hornchurch Aerodrome; and the Air Ministry. The night objectives were placed at Kidbrooke, Croydon and in Richmond Park.

The weather had undoubtedly favoured the defence, for when I was at the Headquarters of Eastland, the enemy, at Andover, to see the first of the bombing units away, it looked as though London would be obscured by cloud. The last Fairey Fox squadron took off in a severe rainstorm, with the clouds scudding overhead at 30 miles an hour or more. Undoubtedly the bombing commanders had hoped for broken cloud, which would enable them to dodge the defences, get through between masses of cloud, and make advantage of gaps to find their targets.

NEWS

Blair's party honeymoon over

Tony Blair's honeymoon with his party was all but over last night as membership fell for the first time since he took over as leader and Labour chiefs were accused of stifling dissent at this year's annual conference.

The leadership's difficulties were compounded when Liz Davies, a hard-left party activist who is campaigning for a seat on the national executive committee, accused the leadership of rigging the NEC ballot by allowing telephone voting in next month's elections. Page 1

Sailing scrapheap crosses the Atlantic

Four people, two rottweilers and a short-haired Mexican terrier arrived in Ireland yesterday after a 63-day voyage across the Atlantic on a ramshackle 50ft raft, *Son of Town Hall*, made from rubbish discarded by New Yorkers. Page 1

Huddle future in doubt

Glenn Hoddle's future as England coach was being questioned last night as criticism grew of his decision to betray his players' confidence in a lucrative book on the World Cup. Pages 1, 48

Dash from gas

More than four million families have deserted British Gas to buy from rival companies. The dash away from the former monopoly has accelerated over the past few months. Page 1

Ageists attacked

Employers will be asked to sign an anti-ageist code of practice as part of the Government's drive to end discrimination against older people in the workplace. It was announced. Pages 2, 21

Family disaster

A father and his two sons drowned after slipping away from a boat that had capsized in a freak storm on Lake Garda. Page 3

Caesarean dispute

Healthy women must be allowed to have their babies by Caesarean section if that is what they want, according to papers by two leading specialists. Page 5

Advice for teachers

Teachers have been advised to refuse to apply sunscreen to children in their care because of the risks of being accused of sexual abuse. Page 6

Animal rights protest targets Blairs

Tony Blair is "reconsidering" his attendance tonight at the Palio, the traditional bareback horserace in Siena which should have been the highlight of his Tuscan holiday, because of protests from animal rights activists, according to Siena officials. "We think the Blairs are backing out and will not come after all," one said. Page 16

Post's brother held

Peter, the 52-year-old brother of the Irish poet Patrick Kavanagh, was arrested after the shattered fragments of the writer's headstone were found buried in a bog. Page 7

Bureaucrat in space

Russia has launched its first bureaucrat into space to visit the Mir space station. The craft, with Yuri Baturin, a former defence adviser to President Yeltsin, blasted off from Baikonur. Page 12

Banks make amends

Swiss banks are to pay \$1.25 billion to Holocaust survivors in a settlement with Jewish groups that promises to calm the debate over Switzerland's dealings with the Nazis. Pages 13, 20, 21

New terror group

Osama bin Laden, the renegade Saudi multimillionaire thought to be behind the East African embassy bombings, has created a new terror grouping. Page 15

Hollywood pays up

Hollywood stars including Barbra Streisand and Steven Spielberg are helping the Clintons out of a financial crisis caused by their legal bills. Page 16

UN envoy in Baghdad

A UN envoy has flown to Baghdad after President Saddam Hussein said last week that Iraq would no longer co-operate with weapons inspectors. Page 17



Military pallbearers carry the coffins of some of the Americans killed in the African bombings on their arrival in Washington. Page 15

BUSINESS

Computers: The International Olympic Committee said its relationship with IBM ended because IBM wanted to charge so much for technology that it would have bankrupted the Games. Page 25

Raising loans: British borrowers suffered another crushing loss of confidence as the economic and financial crisis in Russia became worse. Page 25

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 62.7 to close at 5399.5. Sterling rose from 103.8 to 104.0 after a fall from \$1.6294 to \$1.6261 but a rise from DM2.8914 to DM2.9015. Page 28

SPORT

Cricket: The triangular one-day tournament to be launched today at Trent Bridge involving England, South Africa and Sri Lanka is an overdue development. Page 42

Football: Shane Nicholson, the former West Bromwich Albion defender, will be allowed to resume his career after his suspension was lifted by the FA. Page 45

Golf: Betsy King shared the lead in the Westabix British Women's Open with Brandy Burton on 71. They were the only players to finish a full day at Royal Lytham under par. Page 46

Rugby union: Bristol gave notice that they intend to regain their place among the elite by appointing Bob Dwyer and Jack Rowell in high-profile positions. Page 45

ARTS

Sing up: "The rather miraculous truth is that choirs continue to flourish across the realm" — Richard Morrison on the power of the voice. Page 32

Globe warming: Last week Benedict Nightingale criticised the "pan-tomime tendency" at Shakespeare's Globe at Bankside. Now Mark Rylance, the artistic director, answers back. Page 32

Ordinary people: As befits Britain's fastest-rising rock band, the boys of Embrace are putting aside their boastful old ways to concentrate on writing good songs. Page 33

Edinburgh ceiling: Benedict Nightingale reviews David Harrower's *Kill the Old Torment* and *Your Young*, plus a round-up of comedy shows on at the Fringe. Page 34

Naming names: Sally Noel would look more at home in the pages of *Hello!* than protesting on the pavements of London. Yet a future of relentless debt at Lloyd's of London has turned Noel into an unlikely activist. Page 19

Jane Shilling: You may have thought that you had finished your sales shopping, but unless you fancy spending the dog days buttoned to the chin in your woollens, it's back again to see what can be unearthed from the last days of the summer reductions. Page 18

Don't panic: Poor A-level results are not the end of the world. John O'Leary explains. Page 40

American dream: An unwritten law of TV is that Americans own the copyright on America. So when a London company makes documentaries about US history, it is a phenomenon. Page 36

Nobody in government or in officialdom pretends to like the prospect of freeing men who have murdered guards. There is always the possibility that such men, once released, will revert to violence. Nonetheless, it is a calculated risk for peace. — *The Irish Times*

TOMORROW

IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

THE SELLING OF MICHAEL OWEN
Liverpool's hero cashes in on World Cup stardom

SEE EMILY WATSON
Meet Emily Watson, British actress and Hollywood heartthrob

Preview: A taste of the illegal in *Country Tracks* (BBC2); and Ross has a problem with a new lady in *Friends* (Channel 4). **Review:** Peter Dinklage extols the virtues of John Peel as disc jockey and now television presenter. Pages 46, 47

Russian wobbles

For now, the most important thing governments can do is to pile pressure onto Japan, whose failure to tackle its own inherently manageable crisis is affecting confidence everywhere and thus compounding Russia's problems. Page 21

Continental drift

The Foreign Secretary has chosen to assume that "Maastricht was a high-water mark of integration". This is an extraordinary sentiment to express with the advent of a single currency. Page 21

Old dogs, new tricks

The market, like time, cannot be cheated for long and this Government would be wiser if it left its lectures for others. Page 21

MATTHEW PARRIS

Apart (I believe) from our failure to invent an affordable, lightweight and powerful electric battery, no failure of modern technology more obviously holds back the human race than our inability cheaply to desalinate water. Page 20

DANIEL JOHNSON

Now an even more ambitious Kohl project — the Holocaust memorial — looks as though it may run into the sandy Berlin soil if he loses the election. Page 20

PHILIP HOWARD

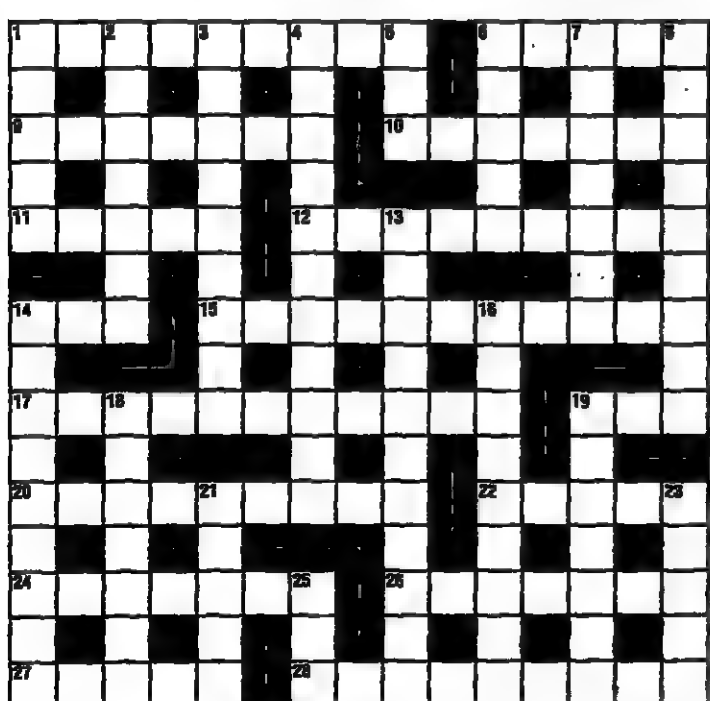
Higher maths is useless. That is its glory. You cannot justify it by its spin-offs, as idiots justify the space programme because it produced non-stick saucepans. Page 20

Live Roswell, popular singer: the Earl of Jersey; Dr Philip Connell, child psychiatrist. Page 23

Loss of vocational training in universities: Nurse shortages; Mink myths; PoWs' pay; Elgar misunderstood. Page 21

12, 21, 23, 28, 44, 49. Bonus 80

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,870



- ACROSS**
- Disorder makes bird land (9).
 - Wood 1 cut initially? To be pedantic, it's chopped (5).
 - Less experienced author given royalty (7).
 - Note from me to people inside (7).
 - Insist son puts clothes on (5).
 - Churchman promises to pay for what's second-hand (9).
 - Letter that goes by air? (3).
 - Retreat from scene of corporal punishment (6-5).
 - Totally bare review producing heated argument (6-5).
 - Save from boat going West (3).
 - Water supply set up in good shape (4-5).
 - Girl artist has turned around (5).
 - Refuse to accept difficulty with mistake (7).
 - For two of the three Rs, this is really different (7).
- DOWN**
- Composer's part in 15, roughly speaking (5).
 - Expert in taking in firm's garment (9).
 - Modern artist upset ancient Society (5).
 - Flats, etc., people go to view (7).
 - Army steps over a line about functioning of ruler (9).
 - Came with Eric on the move for so long from abroad (11).
 - Book that's one among thousands (3).
 - Comparatively feeble work by Debussy (5).
 - It's uplifting for people when the balloon goes up (7).
 - Top position on board high-flier's at home (5-4).
 - Colour pattern that's sweet on the hand (5-6).
 - Patient types throw out petty official (9).
 - Traveller's success introducing right garment for sportsmen (4-5).
 - Furniture the average person won't overlook? (7).
 - Mexican food — it's consumed by an ass (7).
 - Farm building 1 put in — a little one (5).
 - Vacation time for composer (5).
 - Show affection to unloved writer (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 20864

DIAMOND WEDDING
BEETHOVEN GAPER
T S R I I V L D
T O V E R S E N S I T I V E
T M I S O E N
U N D E R M I N I N G
G L A D Y S
M I G R E
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Times Two Crossword, page 48

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Rise: 5.44 am
Sun set: 5.25 pm
Moon rise: 1.38 am
Moon set: 11.46 pm

Last quarter today
London 8.26 pm to 5.46 am
Bristol 8.36 pm to 5.56 am
Edinburgh 8.26 pm to 5.46 am
Manchester 8.40 pm to 5.46 am
Penzance 8.43 pm to 5.11 am

FORECAST

☐ General: rain will clear most of Scotland tomorrow to give some sun, then further with blustery showers in north and west. Northern England and Wales will be dull with rain. Central and southwest England will be cloudy with rain later. Southeast England will be dry and warm.
☐ London, SE England, E Anglia: sunny spells developing. Light to moderate SW wind. Max 22-25C (72-77F).
☐ Cent S England: sunny spells, cloudy later. Light to moderate SW wind. Max 22-25C (72-77F).
☐ E Midlands, E England: cloudy, rain. Moderate SW wind. Max 22-25C (72-77F).
☐ W Midlands, SW England: becoming cloudy with rain. Moderate SW wind. Max 21-24C (70-75F).
☐ Channel Isles: mostly sunny. Light to moderate SW wind. Max 21-22C (70-72F).

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

84 hrs to 5 pm: temperature, cloud cover, direction, speed, rain, snow, fog, hail, ice, wind, sun, moon, stars, planets, comets, meteors, aurora, etc.

ABROAD

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
Ajaccio	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Alger	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Amman	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Antwerp	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Athens	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Bahia	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Bangkok	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Barcelona	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Bombay	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Buenos Aires	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Calcutta	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Cairo	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Cardiff	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Chennai	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Copenhagen	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Dakar	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Dhaka	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Dublin	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Edinburgh	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Geneva	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Hankow	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Hong Kong	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Hyderabad	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Isle of Man	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Jakarta	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Kuala Lumpur	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
London	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Lyons	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Madrid	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Mumbai	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Nairobi	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Paris	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Perth	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Rangoon	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Reykjavik	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Rome	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Singapore	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Stockholm	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Taipei	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Tokyo	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Toronto	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Winnipeg	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Zurich	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00

Temperatures at midday local time on Wednesday. X = not available

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FORECAST

☐ Wales, NW, NE and Cent England, Lake District: late of rain, then rain. Moderate SW wind. Max 21-23C (70-73F).
☐ Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: rain then sunny spells and scattered showers. Moderate to fresh SW wind. Max 18-20C (64-68F).
☐ SW, NE and NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, Orkney: early rain then some sunny spells. Moderate to fresh SW wind. Max 15-18C (59-64F).
☐ Shetland: early rain clearing then sunny spells and showers. Moderate to fresh S to SW wind. Max 14C (57F).
☐ W Ireland: rain then sun and blustery showers. Moderate SW to W wind. Max 17-18C (63-64F).
☐ Republic of Ireland: rain clearing then bright or sunny. Wind SW then becoming west moderate. Max 18 to 20C (64 to 68F).
☐ Outlook: wet in north, sunny in south.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

84 hrs to 5 pm: temperature, cloud cover, direction, speed, rain, snow, fog, hail, ice, wind, sun, moon, stars, planets, comets, meteors, aurora, etc.

ABROAD

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
Ajaccio	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
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Bahia	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Bangkok	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Barcelona	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Bombay	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Buenos Aires	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Calcutta	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Cairo	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Cardiff	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Chennai	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Copenhagen	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Dakar	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Dhaka	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Dublin	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Edinburgh	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Geneva	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Hankow	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Hong Kong	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Hyderabad	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Isle of Man	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Jakarta	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Kuala Lumpur	29.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
London	29.84	10.00		

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Education Page 40

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY AUGUST 14 1998

Russian freefall batters world markets

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

WORLD stock markets suffered another crushing loss of confidence as the economic and financial crisis in Russia intensified.

Trading on the Russian stock market was suspended temporarily yesterday after George Soros, the international financier, said that Russia's markets crisis had now reached a "terminal phase" and called for the market to be devalued.

Russian shares dropped initially by 15 per cent, prompting the suspension of trade. By the close, stocks were quoted around 6.5 per cent lower and Russian state television had dubbed events "Russia's Black Thursday". The interest rates on Russian short-term treasury bills soared to as high as 210 per cent.

The sombre mood was blackened even further by news that Moody's Investors Services and Standard & Poor's, the world's leading credit rating agencies, had lowered their ratings on a range of Russia's foreign currency debt, bank deposits and banks.

The Russian central bank announced that its foreign exchange rate gold reserves had fallen to \$17 billion by August 7 from \$18.4 billion at the end of July. The bank has been forced to sell dollars to support the rouble in recent days and intervened in the market again yesterday.

The fear is that the central bank will start eating into the \$22.6 billion of funds provided last month by the International Monetary Fund which were supposed to be a stand-by facility to restore confidence, not a source of crisis funding to support the currency.

In a letter to *The Financial Times* yesterday, Mr Soros advocated a devaluation of the rouble by between 15 and 25 per cent and the setting up of a currency board, backed by \$30 billion of funds from the IMF and the Group of Seven industrialised nations.

Denis Kiselev, Deputy Chairman of Russia's central bank, immediately rejected the idea of a currency board and vowed to fight on to avoid a rouble devaluation.

However, Mr Soros' gloomy assessment of Russia's position focused even more attention on the growing instability in the country and hit stock markets around the world.

In London, the FTSE 100 index fell by more than 1 per cent to record its lowest close since late January. It fell 62.7 points to close at 5,399.5. At one point the index had fallen 111 points.

Across Europe, stock markets fell by as much as 3 per cent in morning trade but most indices recovered to close around 1 per cent lower.

On Wall Street, an early rally faded almost immediately and the Dow Jones industrial average soon registered a loss of more than 50 points, prompting New York Stock Exchange trading curbs to be put in place. By mid-session trading, the Dow was quoted 53.81 points lower at 8,499.15 in extremely volatile trading.

One bright spot was a rally in world oil prices on surprise news that Saudi Arabia was cutting production. Oil prices, which had fallen to two-year lows on Tuesday, rose by 46 cents to \$12.23 a barrel.

Russia has been hit particularly hard by the plunge in crude prices because oil and gas makes up more than 50 per cent of its exports.

Events in Moscow only added to the continuing gloom in Asia. In Far Eastern trading yesterday, Malaysian stocks fell by 5 per cent to their lowest level for a decade and Hong Kong shares lost nearly 3 per cent.

By contrast stocks in Tokyo registered a modest gain, the first positive day in eight sessions.

Leading article, page 21
Rouble dilemma, page 29



IBM made a big impact at the Nagano Winter Olympic Games in Japan

IOC feared bankruptcy if it agreed IBM terms

By JASON NISSE AND TAMMIN BERRY

THE International Olympic Committee yesterday revealed that its 38-year-old relationship with IBM had been ended because the computer group had wanted to charge so much for technology that it would have bankrupted the Olympics.

The revelations came after IBM's announcement last week that it would cease its sponsorship of the Games after the Sydney Olympics in 2000. IBM is the Olympics' third-oldest sponsor, after Coca-Cola and Kodak, and the termination of the deal was a huge surprise.

Yesterday the IOC, speaking for the first time on the issue, said that IBM had refused to continue to provide the bulk of technological services for free and said it would charge "hundreds of millions of dollars" to provide services for the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

Michael Payne, marketing director of the IOC, said that it had asked other information technology groups how much it would cost to provide similar services, and the cost had been "less than \$100 million". Mr Payne said: "If we were to force the costs IBM was projecting on Salt Lake City it would have bankrupted the organising committee."

IBM agreed that it had told the IOC that the costs for future Olympic Games would have been "hundreds of millions of dollars", but it would not elaborate further.

The computer group was heavily criticised for glitches in the systems that were used for the Atlanta Olympic Games and it is estimated to have spent more than \$100 mil-

lion on services for the Nagano Games in Japan last winter, charging the organisers less than a tenth of that figure.

The two sides also fell out because the IOC wanted to split the running of Internet services from the main Olympic sponsorship. IBM has run the Website for the past three Olympic Games but it was told that it would have to pay up to \$40 million on top of other sponsorship to continue this deal. "This was not in our best interests," said Deb Gotheimer, an IBM spokesperson.

Mr Payne told *The Times* that the IOC will now look for a panel of information technology providers. It will have a systems co-ordinator — with EDS and Andersen Consulting understood to be favourites — and a separate hardware supplier. Hewlett Packard and Sun Microsystems are expected to be in the running to take on the latter sponsorship.

The IOC has ten other main sponsors for the Sydney Olympics, and the Sydney organising committee has nine local sponsors signed up. Mr Payne revealed that two of the main sponsors — Coca-Cola and Time — have signed new deals stretching to 2008 and he hoped to announce soon that three more of the panel are extending their contracts.

Visa International is expected to be one of those announced. The credit card company yesterday said that it was extremely pleased with its partnership with the IOC, which dates back to 1988. A spokesman said: "We look forward to continuing dialogue with the IOC in defining our role beyond Sydney 2000."

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5399.5	(-62.7)
Nikkei	10,000	(-100)
DAX	2,500	(-25)
S&P 500	1,000	(-10)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.25%	(9.75%)
Long term	5.50%	(5.50%)
Yield	5.50%	(5.50%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month bill	5.25%	(7.75%)
6-month bill	5.50%	(5.50%)
12-month bill	5.75%	(5.75%)

STERLING

New York	1.6270	(1.6270)
London	1.6270	(1.6270)
Paris	1.6270	(1.6270)

YEN

New York	1.6270	(1.6270)
London	1.6270	(1.6270)
Paris	1.6270	(1.6270)

EURO

New York	1.6270	(1.6270)
London	1.6270	(1.6270)
Paris	1.6270	(1.6270)

BOEING TO CUT 28,000 JOBS

Boeing	28,000	(28,000)
Boeing	28,000	(28,000)
Boeing	28,000	(28,000)

APR link-up with Europe

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

BORROWERS should find it easier to access lenders in mainland Europe under a Government proposal to reform the APR (annual percentage rate) system of measuring the cost of credit.

Dr Kim Howells, Consumer Affairs Minister, has announced that he will implement a European Union directive aimed at harmonising APR with the rest of Europe. This would enable borrowers to make meaningful comparisons between loan products in different countries, he said.

The Government is taking steps to address borrowers' confusion over APR, which was introduced in 1980 to help borrowers understand the cost of loans by adding the interest rate with any additional charge

by lenders. However, the complex formula has been criticised for creating anomalies, particularly by understating the true cost of mortgages and bank overdrafts.

Two months ago the Government signalled that it would be taking action to prevent mortgage lenders from deceiving borrowers with unrealistic APRs.

Several lenders offering low-start, fixed-rate mortgages had based their APR on the cheap rate of interest initially offered, sometimes as low as 1 per cent, arguing they did not know what their variable rate would be in future.

The Government has dismissed this and from next year lenders will have to calculate the APR across the 15-year life of the loan.

Cendant gloom deepens

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

CENDANT, owner of Avis car rentals, tried to put its fraudulent merger behind it yesterday with the presentation of results from the four-month investigation into accounting irregularities.

Michael Monaco, finance director, said: "We uncovered much greater fraud [at CUC] than we had any conception of when we launched this effort in April." Cendant was created last year with the merger of CUC and HFS, two franchise and direct marketing companies.

It has restated accounts for the last three years, lowering last year's pre-tax earnings by \$400 million (£250 million).

Called to account, page 29

Over 1,000 go at Fosters

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

FOSTERS TRADING, the menswear retailer, has emerged from administration with the same management but 1,100 fewer staff and the closure of 130 branches.

The management team led by David Carter-Johnson, managing director, that called in the administrators, is being handed back control of the company after five months. They will retain 40 of its larger and more successful stores, and 600 staff.

BDO Stoy Hayward, the accountancy firm that was brought in by Fosters in March as administrator, has persuaded the company's creditors to accept a settlement of about 10 per cent of the money they were owed. Usually at least 75 per cent of creditors have to accept the terms of

ferred before a company can come out of administration.

The creditors, including Lloyds Bank and a large number of landlords, will get about 15 million between them. The staff whose jobs have gone will receive full pay and redundancy settlements.

The management team that is taking back control at Fosters is the same one that bought it out from the Sears group in 1992 for £1.

The company got into problems due to a radical shift in the menswear market away from denim and conventional casualwear and towards sportswear. Turnover at the 40 stores being retained was nearly £30 million during the past four months, compared with £95 million for the full 173 in 1997.

Buffett's silver tarnished as price slides

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

WARREN BUFFETT'S year-old bet on the silver market has now turned into a net loser and a blight on his reputation. Silver prices have fallen below the average price at which the US investment guru bought 20 per cent of the world's silver supply.

Yesterday, an ounce of silver was trading at \$5.05, down from \$5.25, after the Asian financial crisis further reduced demand. Silver prices had risen from \$4 a year ago to \$7 early this year when Mr Buffett sparked a price rise.

He is believed to have paid an average price of \$5.10 for each of his 130 million ounces. There are no reasons to believe that Mr Buffett has sold his silver, traders said, creating a \$6.5 million loss. The hold-

ing represents about 2 per cent of his total investment portfolio.

A silver trader said: "This doesn't yet hurt Buffett but all the people who started buying because of him have been hurt. They started buying way above today's price. Buffett's really lost credibility in the commodities market."

In February, Mr Buffett announced his silver-buying spree amid accusations that he was trying to corner the market. He dispelled talk of replicating the famous attempt by the Hunt brothers to buy the entire world silver supply. His rationale for his first significant foray into the commodities market was an assessment suggesting a long-term lack of supply pushing up prices. No such bottleneck has occurred.

Speaking in May at the annual meeting of Berkshire Hathaway, his holding com-

pany, Mr Buffett said: "We thought that the figures on production and demand were such that it would require a higher price to establish equilibrium."

Followers of Mr Buffett had their hopes raised in July when silver prices edged to a two-month high. A hint of the supply constraints predicted by Mr Buffett lifted prices but they quickly fell back again when the Japanese economy and the yen showed further signs of weakness.

Observers of Mr Buffett point out that the so-called Sage of Omaha is at his best when assessing the potential of US companies. Berkshire Hathaway is a major shareholder in Gillette, McDonald's and Coca-Cola. But it has few foreign companies in its portfolio and in the past Mr Buffett has repeatedly warned against betting on short or medium-term economic shifts.

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Standards called to account over Cendant

Even by the roller-coaster standards of Wall Street where fortunes are won and lost at the push of a button, the case of Cendant — the new owners of the RAC and National Car Parks — and its \$20 billion (£12 billion) market collapse is an unusual one.

US investors and regulators have few illusions about the propriety of some recently made millionaires. Insider trading is said to be rife again. In a generally rising market crooked gains are easily disguised.

But straightforward fraud is a different matter. Until Cendant's spectacular implosion in April, investors believed large-scale fraud could happen at foreign companies, remember BCCI. But America had the toughest accounting standards in the world. No other government forced its businesses into such exhaustive financial strip-teases.

Evidence uncovered by Arthur Andersen at CUC, the company merged with HFS to form

Oliver August reports from New York on what has become an expensive lesson in corporate governance

Cendant last year, suggests that 61 per cent of net income was simply made up. Managers and accountants literally revised revenues up and losses down at the stroke of a pen. They would do so shifting hundreds of thousands of dollars at a time. Half of CUC's division controllers are said to have done so. So much for US accounting standards.

The Cendant saga is not only a financial disaster for investors but also an indication of how easy it is to cheat even in America. When the books were changed, CUC would simply call the fraudulent adjustments "consolidation entries". Ernst & Young, its auditors, did not publicly object. Nor did the accountants openly

question \$200 million in accounting errors such as delaying insurance claims.

A separate matter raised in the report that is likely to anger investors even more is the millions of dollars of unexplained but not necessarily fraudulent expense claims by Walter Forbes, the chief executive.

Cynics have remarked that Mr Forbes couldn't possibly have known his employees were cooking the books — he was too busy spending cash advances of \$550,000, or \$4,000 a week. For good measure, HFS also found \$100,000 of undocumented American Express card charges and \$300,000 for air travel taken by Mr Forbes. Adding insult to injury, a note on

one \$596,000 expense report suggested charging the money as expenses from the CUC-HFS merger.

Following the discovery of these irregularities, a corporate civil war has raged at the merged group over recent months. In addition to the 200 accountants already digging dirt, CUC and HFS executives have hired personal lawyers and dozens of executives just below board level signed a letter demanding Mr Forbes's resignation. He was forced out two weeks ago. But not without draining more money out of the company. He will receive a "golden noose" worth more than \$45 million.

But maybe the most appalling detail of the whole sordid saga is what CUC's auditors have to say about it. Do Ernst & Young honestly believe that "we, too, are the victims of a massive intentional collusive fraud"? Accounting standards are only ever as tough as the accountants who are enforcing them.



Rebecca Mark masterminded Enron's Teesside deal

Enron leaves its Mark on utility scene

American ownership of British utility companies has become an issue once more with the decision of Enron to put London Electricity up for sale. The brevity of Enron's dalliance with London — which it bought less than two years ago — has resurrected the concern about "absentee landlords".

As the top international executive at a US group that is in the process of increasing its exposure to UK utilities, this is an anxiety Rebecca Mark is keen to allay.

Ms Mark heads the overseas arm of Enron, the US energy and utilities group, which spans oil and gas exploration and wholesale energy trading, and had revenues of more than \$20 billion (£12 billion) in 1997.

Enron last month made an agreed £1.36 billion cash bid for Wessex Water, its first foray into the water business. Ms Mark is quick to point out, however, that it is not the Texan group's first foray into Britain. Enron has had an office in London for most of the 1990s, the swish sort of HQ on the Embankment in Westminster that UK industry is no longer able to afford.

It is an enviable position, just above the television studios where MPs are interviewed — handy if you want to collar a few members to talk about inward investment or energy policy.

Enron's first big deal here was the establishment of a 1,875 megawatt gas-fired power station on Teesside, which went into commercial operation in 1993. Oddly, for an inward investment deal in the North East, the plant was not sweetened by a public grant and this has also been the case with subsequent projects.

Enron now reckons it has invested more than £2 billion in the UK. However, its experience here has not been trouble-free. The group got into a terrible tangle on a North Sea gas contract. It committed to buy the great bulk of the output from J Block. Prices fell and it had to swallow a \$675 million restructuring charge in its 1997 accounts.

Ms Mark, who has homes in Houston and New York, twin 13-year-old sons and an MBA from Harvard, masterminded the Teesside deal, taking a flat in Mayfair as it evolved.

The Missouri-born executive is one of several particularly prominent American women who are helping to shape international energy groups, including Karen de Segundo at Shell and Rebecca Macdonald at Amoco. Ms Mark has board-level posts at both Yale and Harvard business schools.

Despite the ubiquity of US companies in the UK utility sector, Ms Mark maintains that there is no ex-pat scene for the "landlords" in London.

Because Enron's international activities can spread her thinly across the globe — the group has a major power project in India, for instance — there has been no need to keep the Mayfair base in London.

A pilot-terms might become necessary again after the Wessex deal, which is awaiting regulatory approval. Enron is itself committed to a new home in London, offices that are still being built in Victoria. They were needed as the staffing grew from 20 at the beginning of the decade to 600 now. The wandering MPs and the river-side location, however, will be missed.

ADAM JONES

Janet Bush sees little help for Moscow in the IMF's spend and squeeze formula

Seasoned observers of the tables of the Global Economy always knew behind their poker faces that the euphoria that greeted last month's \$22.6 billion International Monetary Fund support package for Russia would not last long.

Less than a month later, the Russian stock market is in crisis, talk has resurfaced, to be fiercely denied by the authorities in Moscow, that a devaluation of the rouble is inevitable and George Soros, currency speculator and Eastern Europe's most cherished financial philanthropist, is urging the creation of a Group of Seven-backed \$50 billion dollar currency board to stabilise and protect the Russian exchange rate.

Mr Soros, writing yesterday to *The Financial Times*, said that the "melt-down in Russian financial markets has reached the terminal phase".

He laid the blame at the door of the IMF. "The IMF programme imposes tight monetary and fiscal policy; the banking crisis requires the injection of liquidity. The two requirements cannot be reconciled with further international assistance."

Mr Soros suggested that, rather than the current, gradually depreciating peg of the rouble against the dollar, the best solution to the current crisis would be to introduce a currency board after a "modest devaluation of 15 to 25 per cent".

This suggestion was immediately rejected by Denis Klishev, Deputy Chairman of Russia's central bank. "A one-off devaluation of 15 to 25 per cent would not solve a single one of the problems facing the Russian Government," he said.

Russian officials were bound to respond to Mr Soros's suggestion thus. Relative rouble stability has helped Russia to achieve a dramatic reduction in inflation to just over 4 per cent, compared with inflation of more than 1,000 per cent after the collapse of

communism in 1991. In what has been a tortuous transition to market economics, which has still left the Government unable to pay millions of Russian workers their wages, this has been a singular achievement that the authorities do not want to compromise.

However, Mr Soros's ideas cannot easily be dismissed. Russia faces some tough choices if it is emerge from the crisis of confidence that, more than contagion effects from Asia, is due to the collapse of the price of crude oil which, with gas, accounts for more than 50 per cent of its exports.

The current emphasis of IMF policy-makers, the US Treasury and other members of the G7 is on efforts to bolster tax collection to plug Russia's deteriorating financial position and enable the authorities to pay out wages.

However, this is a long-term effort and, with the Duma, Russia's Communist-dominated parliament, already proving intransigent, even early progress in this respect is being stymied.

Structural reforms, always urged by the IMF, are all very well but they are not the answer to short-term crisis.

Broadly, Russia faces two very difficult choices if it is to plug the current account black hole left by the slump in world oil prices and to restore its public finances to health. It could impose a severe fiscal squeeze on an already murderous population or it could devalue the rouble.

Some observers believe that, despite the absolutist tone of current rhetoric on maintaining the rouble peg with the dollar, opinion is shifting towards the latter.

The one serious bar to devaluation is the huge forward currency exposure of Russian banks to the rouble. If the rouble were to be devalued now, these banks would be destroyed, creating an even more terminal crisis in confidence. However, a large proportion of these forward contracts will expire by October and November. Unless the IMF and America, its largest shareholder, were to successfully veto such

Rouble stability achieved a dramatic reduction in inflation

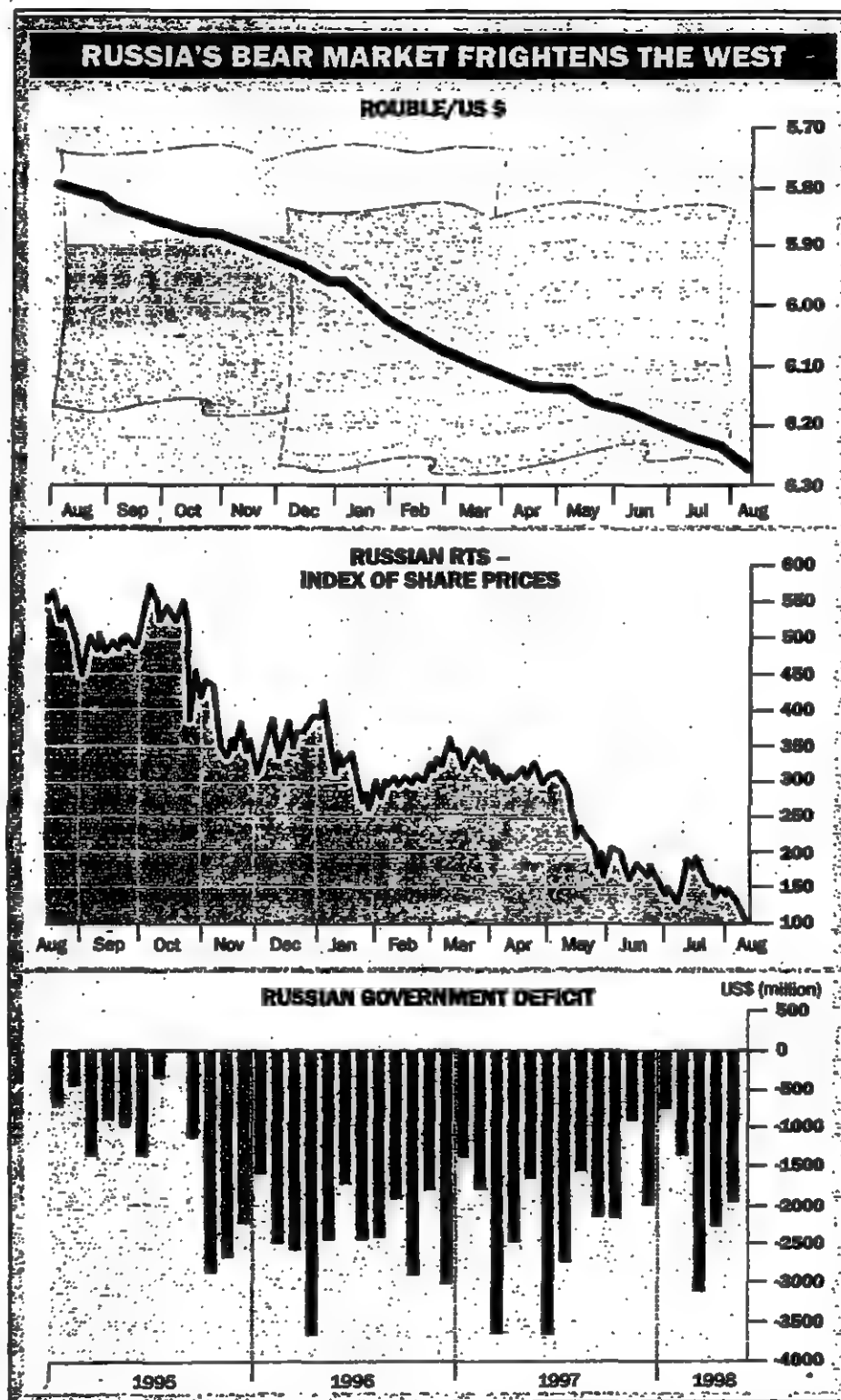
to pay out wages. However, this is a long-term effort and, with the Duma, Russia's Communist-dominated parliament, already proving intransigent, even early progress in this respect is being stymied.

Structural reforms, always urged by the IMF, are all very well but they are not the answer to short-term crisis.

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a move, a devaluation towards the end of the year might be deemed politically preferable to another austerity package.

Although even talking about the relative desirability of a devaluation is taboo in current, highly unstable conditions, some economists argue that a bold devaluation would go down far better with Russians than another swinging

fiscal squeeze — perhaps on consumption — in an economy whose gross domestic product has already contracted by half over less than a decade.

Whatever Russia eventually decides to do, without a miraculous recovery in oil prices or something else to persuade foreigners to go on financing its budget deficit, it will need considerable additional funds

from the IMF and the G7.

Kasper Bartholdy, fixed income strategist at Credit Suisse First Boston, believes an additional \$15 billion is probably a minimum and that the \$50 billion quoted by Mr Soros as the necessary backing for a currency board is certainly not outrageous.

There seems little doubt that the IMF and the G7 are will-

ing to do what it takes to bail Russia out of its current difficulties. If South Korea was too strategically important to be allowed to fail, then how much more crucial is the relative political stability and the transition to a market economy in Russia which is, let it not be forgotten, a nuclear power.

The trouble is the logical inconsistency between injecting billions of dollars of liquidity into Russia and then squeezing it again through high interest rates, the identical prescription that the IMF always resorts to in such situations.

Interest rates in Russia have soared to 150 per cent, instant death to a country whose banking sector is in crisis. Mr Bartholdy of CSFB draws a comparison with Bulgaria which, faced with a far worse economic crisis than Russia, including hyperinflation, adopted a currency board last year. It now has interest rates of around 10 per cent and a stable currency.

A currency board may be workable, even in Russia. It would have to be set up, as Mr Soros suggests, after a large devaluation, and it would have to be backed by a great deal of money to give it credibility.

Interest rates would probably have to be kept very high at first but they are painfully high already. Another enormous challenge is setting up a currency board in crisis conditions. It would look suspiciously like an easy target to speculators (presumably not including Mr Soros's Quantum Fund).

The alternative is more radical still. Let the rouble float freely but implement some disincentives against foreign banks that might have fun speculating. Tell them that, if the rouble were to fall 20 per cent, Russia would declare a moratorium on all debts. A further 10 per cent down and Russia would revoke 20 per cent of debts. A further 10 per cent — and so on.

Such an incentive-based approach would be more effective than the IMF's failed policy of squeezing the liquidity lifeblood out of economies in crisis and then having to spend billions sorting out its own mess to little effect.

Surprisingly, this might prove politically popular. The value of the rouble in their pockets may decline but at least Russians would welcome an end to its Government's passive acceptance of Western billions at an insupportable price.

Free lunch

AMID all the hype surrounding the imminent City debut of Sir Terence Conran — the Coq d'Argent opens at No 1 Poultry on Monday — another gastronomic project has been rather overlooked.

Rather than attending yesterday's Coq d'Argent press lunch (actually, I wasn't invited), I ate just around the corner at Lombard Street — an address which doubles as the name of a new restaurant set up by Soren Jensen, the London-based Dane who once backed Oliver Peyton of Atlantic Bar & Grill fame. (Peyton, as readers of this column will know, is planning

his own venture in Ladbroke). Jensen, who has spent the past ten years with Goldman Sachs and UBS, has now quit the world of finance to be a full-time restaurateur in partnership with Herbert Berger, who won a Michelin star at the Café Royal.

Yesterday was supposed to be the first day of trading for Lombard Street in its splendid neo-classical former banking hall, but a glitch with the licence meant lunch was free. My thanks, therefore, to Messrs Jensen and Berger for a first-class meal.

THANKS are also owed to the Bank of International Settlements, headquartered in Switzerland, for its illuminating press release on what central banks have been doing to reduce the risks of foreign exchange settlement. The release, received yesterday, is dated July 13. And I thought timeliness was a vital aspect of international money markets. Then again, it has taken Swiss banks 50 years to admit that they are sitting on \$5 billion of Holocaust victims' assets.

Morning after
NIGEL BULLOCK, a City salesman at Rabobank, is feeling rather bruised following a corporate beano



last week. Back home, at the end of a long day, Bullock tripped over, crashed through a plate-glass cabinet and knocked himself out. When he came round, he crawled into bed where he remained until his girlfriend arrived to find a trail of blood. As she attempted to manoeuvre him out of the house to get him to hospital, several objects were knocked over and a lamp broken. When he returned from hospital, he tried to repair the lamp only to electrocute himself. Thankfully, he is now fully recovered — apart from a rather red face.

Job prospects?
IT IS good to see that the *Financial Times* remains as scrupulously impartial as ever. Yesterday it carried a

quarter-page job advertisement from Virgin Entertainment Group while running a two-page analysis of the financial viability of Richard Branson's empire.

According to the paper, an examination of the accounts of the disparate businesses that make up the Virgin Group shows that it has spent more than it has earned in the past two years at a time when its cash-generating businesses have enjoyed favourable trading conditions.

Will Whitehorn, Branson's combative but always personable PR man, claims that the accounts used do not reflect what is happening in Virgin today, and that it will generate cash of £150 million this year. So will Virgin be reviewing its advertising spend with the FT? "Absolutely not," he says. "We still love them dearly."

Jet fighter
STELIOS HAJIOANNOU is a charming man, but he is a tiger when angry. British Airways is feeling the full force of his wrath after launching its cheap-and-cheerful Go service from London to Edinburgh — a direct rival to EasyJet's service from Luton.

He got wind of the plan at 1pm on Wednesday, while on a flight from Nice, and immediately booked a full-page advert in *The Scotsman*. At 2pm he got to work on the EasyJet computers and by 4pm he had filed the copy. The result, in yesterday's paper, is a rather rambling attack on "the moth-

er of all fare wars" under a graphic portraying BA as a huge tank and EasyJet as a guerrilla fighter armed with an assault rifle. It looks cheap and tacky but is oddly effective. A bit like EasyJet.

NEW water companies are gushing forth all over the country. Nineteen, in fact, calling themselves Derby Water, Gloucester Water, Cardiff Water, etc. None reside in the eponymous towns: they are all registered in Birmingham — at the HQ of Severn Trent Water. It seems the utility is trying to get ahead of its competitors with trustworthy regional names in the unlikely event that competition in the sector should materialise.

DOMINIC WALSH



Hajioannou: taking on BA

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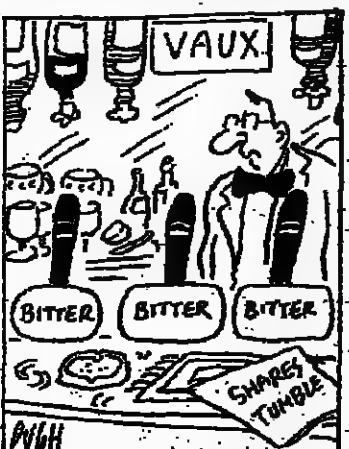
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POP
Clever and
coy tunes from
the audience
PAGE 33

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE



Tomorrow there can only be one place for connoisseurs of Bizarre Occasions to gather, and that is the Albert Hall. The largest ensemble ever assembled for a Prom concert — more than a thousand voices — will roar its merry way through Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*. Its massed ranks will range from piping trebles to stupendously bosomed contraltos, and from tombstone-toned basses to pocket-Pavarottis. Schoolchildren will be taking part, but also choral veterans such as Dorothy Whitemore from Malvern, who sang in the British premiere of *Carmina Burana* in 1949 and will be using the same copy tomorrow, "If I can find it in the lot".

The sound should be hair-raising. Rock bands may be louder, but they cheat by cranking up the decibels electronically. This gargantuan sound will be achieved by lung-power alone. I hope the Albert Hall's flaky old roof is properly battened down for the night.

The performance forms the climax to Choral Day at the Proms, a

seven-hour celebration of the British choral tradition. It will showcase everything from barbershop crooning to an Oxfordshire chapel choir, and from brilliant youth ensembles singing brand new music to the grand and venerable Huddersfield Choral Society thundering through Parry and Elgar.

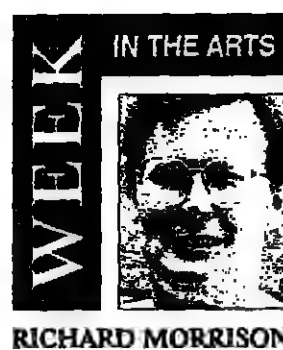
What's pleasing about the event is that it flouts conventional wisdom. Our choral tradition has been written off more times than a rusty Ford Cortina. Changes in the teaching curriculum are said to have eliminated classroom and assembly singing in most schools. Trendy vicars are reported to be abolishing church choirs in favour of pallid choruses for tambourines and three-chord guitarists.

Bankrupt cathedrals are regularly rumoured to be cutting back on paid adult choristers. And it is often claimed that, as young people

drift from the former industrial heartlands of South Wales or the North in search of work, the illustrious choral societies and male-voice choirs of those regions are left perilously short of new blood.

There is some truth in this, and certainly no room for complacency. But the greater and rather miraculous truth is that choirs continue to flourish across the realm. Indeed, I think the tradition is healthier than in its supposed Fifties heyday. The repertoire is wider; the performers more open-minded; standards higher. For proof of that, check out the annual Sainsbury's Choir of the Year competition, if you will pardon the pun.

And splendid variety has been introduced in recent years, not only by the arrival of top-quality gospel choirs such as the London Adventist Choral, but also by those ferociously well-drilled barbershop



RICHARD MORRISON

groups — startling though the sight of 60 grown men leaping around in perfect synchronisation may be to the unwary onlooker.

My only regret is that tomorrow's jamboree climaxes with a piece by such a dubious figure as Carl Orff: a man who worked and

prospered in Nazi Germany. Couldn't the resources of the BBC have stretched to a mega-performance of something more uplifting?

I can't help thinking back to the Great Handel Festival of 1883 (I'm a bit older than I look in my mugshot, girl). In the Crystal Palace that year a choir of 4,000 and an orchestra of 500 performed *Messiah* to an audience of 87,000. Why not mark the millennium by recreating that ear-popping event? The Albert Hall would be much too small, of course... but there is a large public building going up in Greenwich, I understand, and nobody yet seems to have thought of anything better to put in it.

Chumbawamba are up to their wits' ends again. Earlier this year, you may recall, the "anarchist" pop group struck a famous blow for liberty,

fraternity and dry-cleaning by tipping an ice-bucket over an enraged Deputy Prime Minister at the Brits Awards. Now the rock press has been duped into reporting a series of wacky pretend-injuries to Chumbawamba's lady vocalist, the expressively named Alice Nutter.

On tour in Turin the ebullient Ms Nutter was reported to have sustained no fewer than three separate head injuries in a single day. The first was when she joined an Italian anarchist protest and was biffed on the skull by riot police. Or so it was breathlessly reported in the *New Musical Express*.

The American rock magazine *Pollstar* took the story even further. Ms Nutter was said to have returned from hospital only to fall over in the band's tour bus. This, a Chumbawamba spokeswoman claimed, caused "compound fractures and nerve damage".

Returning to her hotel room after further hospital treatment, the singer then "apparently sneezed" the spokeswoman continued. This "caused her eyeball temporarily to leave its socket". At this point Ms Nutter was said to have called it a day, and returned to her native Leeds for rest and recuperation.

Across the continent, class warriors and rock fans sent condolences to their feisty heroine. Alas, last week's *NME* carried a sad little correction. "Apparently the story about Alice Nutter being injured was actually made up by the band," the magazine declared, a little sheepishly. What, even that wonderful bit about the eyeball temporarily leaving its socket? John Prescott will be disappointed.

Still, as Chumbawamba's greatest (and indeed only) hit puts it: "I get knocked down. But I get up again. You're never going to keep me down." I don't know what success Chumbawamba are having in the class war, but they certainly add greatly to the gaiety of the nation. We need more Nutters.

Last week I was offered a "friendly warning" in these pages by *The Times* critic Benedict Nightingale, headlined "Stop making a pantomime of Shakespeare". I met Nightingale the following morning on Radio 4's 7pm programme and had an enlightening conversation as we rode home. I write this article on his recommendation that I clear up a few misconceptions about what we are all doing at Shakespeare's Globe.

In his recent book, *Tales from Ovid*, Ted Hughes writes of Shakespeare, in whom the "sweet, witty soul" of Ovid was said to live again, that what Shakespeare shares most with Ovid is "an interest in passion. Or rather, in what a passion feels like to the one possessed by it. Not just ordinary passion either but passion in extremis — passion where it combusts or levitates or mutates into an experience of the supernatural."

How do we find this in this age of A-level set texts and theatrical criticism which remains as dry as the remainder biscuit after a long voyage? Nightingale questions whether the "authenticity" painstakingly sought by Sam Wanamaker in the building should extend to the bond between audience and actors (what would be the point if it didn't?), and claims that I ask the audience to pretend they are Elizabethans. How ridiculous. On the contrary, I make a point in our programmes of asking them to bring only themselves and measure the play's verity on the scale of their own lives. For if Shakespeare holds a mirror up to nature, how can our theatrical mirror contain anything without our audience's generous willingness to reveal

Meet the real Shakespeare

THEATRE: Pantomime at the Globe? That's not what we're all about, argues artistic director Mark Rylance

What I encourage is the following: that my fellow actors play and sometimes talk directly with the audience, rather than to or at them. *With* implies listening to the audience, which I also encourage, and together as artists we are constantly trying to encourage responses that are involved in the story and let pass those that are self-promoting or undermining of the story. Last year as Henry V, I was able to play with the audience as if they were my soldiers in

France. They certainly never cheered the killing of the prisoners, as Nightingale asserts. Yes, the French nobility were booed for their vanity and self-aggrandisement which cost them the battle; however, French women were not booed but cheered when they stopped Henry in his tracks.

Nightingale chooses a number of examples from this year's repertoire to criticise the audience's reactions, so I attended *As You Like It* and listened carefully during *Merchant of Venice* last weekend. He says that in *As You Like It*

apples are "thrown back and forth". What I witnessed was one apple thrown high into the air by the superb John McEnery when as Jacques he observes that "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players". The apple was thrown by a player and caught by a member of the audience, a simple gesture beautifully illustrating the illusionary nature of the division between actor and audience, which Jacques's lines and character suggest, and which this production is actively exploring by treating the entire Globe as the Forest of Arden.

For the actor to be at one with the audience in this way encourages a kind of mass complicity in the suspension of disbelief. Engaging daily in this experiment, as my fellow actors and musicians are, we may have more opportunity to observe the incredible subtlety of the new and dynamic relationship the Globe affords the player — 700 of them for a mere £9.

Nightingale is concerned about hissing and booing. So are we. Some members of our audience may arrive completely misled by inaccurate press material telling them that it is a requirement for them to boo and hiss, but the majority willingly exchange the "outside" world for that within the Globe, to become genuine participants in storytelling. Often they wish to make it known when they are displeased with a character's actions.

Most disconcertingly, Nightingale makes four or five criticisms of my company encouraging coarseness in *The Merchant of Venice*, ending with the sentence: "Meanwhile Magni (Marcello Magni) continues to run amok in *The Merchant*, doing horse impressions, miming death throes, and I don't know what." Well, Nightingale doesn't know what, because to my amazement I discovered he hadn't seen the production, but was just repeating opinions of other critics.

Magni brings a considerable training in the art of Commedia to his role as the clown Launcelot Gobbo, and at that moment is doing exactly what the text suggests, which is to play tricks on his blind father. The play is a comedy, and Magni's role is to play the clown. I really was not convinced last weekend that this action hindered or coarsened the audience's judgment of the situation in which Shylock finds himself. They do not boo him when he enters, or at any other point, other than when he turns down the offer of thrice the money which he has loaned to Antonio, and by so doing it becomes apparent

that in his anguish he intends to murder Antonio. These are not anti-Semitic boos but disapproval of a character's murderous intent.

The ominous talk among several of "us", as Nightingale reports his sources, in which he asserts that I am encouraging the coarsening of Shakespeare, is ill-informed. What I encourage at the Globe is careful research into original playing practices, daily class in movement, speech and verse-speaking during the rehearsal period for the actors, live music which becomes a powerful tool in the absence of lighting and sets, and beautiful, hand-crafted Elizabethan clothing.

Our director of education, Patrick Spotsiswood, runs our education department which works with local, national and international schools and educational bodies, and we have a prestigious research programme headed by Professor Andrew Gurr. We are also offering the chance to hear plays by Shakespeare's contemporaries that have not been performed for 400 years

and we are celebrating those productions in our amphitheatre that now holds 1,600 people. Last year Middleton was as popular as Shakespeare.

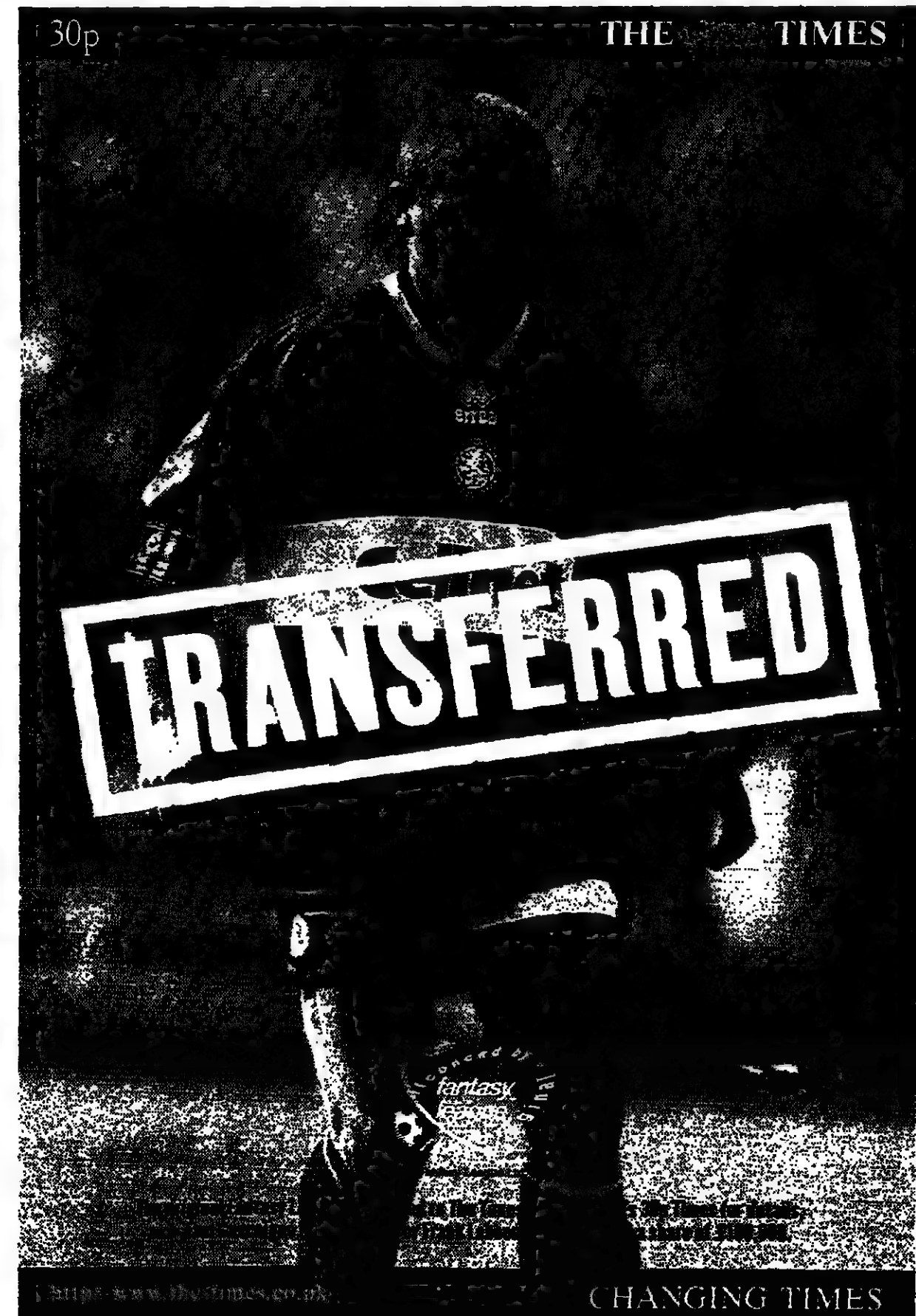
Our audiences know that we are an subsidised theatre, that within it their voice is liberated and powerful, that their participation in coming to "hear a play" is an active one. They are coming in droves. And they are partners with us in an experiment that for many actors and audiences is changing the way they want to meet their Shakespeare.

dressed up like a sunny seaside postcard, she catches in on the boys' predicament when Inspector Truscott of the Yard arrives pretending to be from the Metropolitan Water Board.

"My deception was never intended to deceive you," bellows Truscott with the delicious obtuseness of an Open University maths professor. If Fred Ridgeway's fabulously corrupt Truscott supplies the play-saving performance (as deranged and commanding as Basil Fawlty), he is badly let down by his peers. The actors' banana skin accents, and the 100mph delivery, make it sound as if no one could possibly take Orton's jokes seriously. The whole stinging point of Orton is that his fear of being taken seriously makes you take his fears very seriously indeed.

Comic amends are made in the second half as Truscott starts fingering collars. But the feeling of being cheated by the farcical convention Orton so determinedly set up can't be flushed out of the system by merely pandering to it. Grindley and his Chichester Festival stooges owe us this one. At least they've got time enough now to start delivering.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER



THE TIMES

TRANSFERRED

CHANGING TIMES

Pandering to the farcical



What saves the show is Orton's truly preposterous plot, and some of the most evil one-liners about Catholicism and police corruption in the English satirical canon. While the freshly embalmed body of McLeavy's wife lies in a coffin in the sitting room, his son Hal (Gary Whitaker) and his suspiciously close friend Dennis (Alex Coman) swap the body for bank loot they have stolen and stashed in a locked cupboard. What they haven't gambled on is Tracy-Ann Oberman's Irish nurse. On her seventh husband and

Calvin Moran
Talking 'bout

Big hugs and respect to our peers

Good news for the Verve and Oasis:
Embrace aren't out to get you any
more. Stephen Dalton reports

When Richard Morrish married his childhood sweetheart in Huddersfield three weeks ago, much more than a wedding was being celebrated. Because Richard plays guitar with Embrace, Britain's fastest rising rock band, whose debut album *The Good Will Out* topped the charts on the day of its June release. The 25-year-old guitarist's best man was his big brother Danny, 27, who also happens to be Embrace's singer. The quartet, completed by bass player Steve Firth and drummer Mike Heaton, even played a smattering of Elvis Presley classics to get the party swinging.

Success has stalked Embrace since their debut single appeared early last year, with controversy never far behind. The band have already enjoyed two Top Ten singles and will release another, guaranteed hit, *My Weakness is None*, of *Your Business*, next week. Their album is starting to make waves in America, while their biggest ever British tour, which begins next month, is selling out fast. They may still be babies compared to Oasis and the Verve, but these are the titans to which they are typically compared — often unfavourably. A situation not helped by negative comments Danny made about his multimillion-selling rivals in early interviews.

But it is a humbler image that Embrace seem keen to project now. Perhaps they feel vindicated by their success, but more likely they hope to deflate their reputation for self-importance. The son of a Huddersfield builder and joiner, Danny recently moved to London to be with his girlfriend. The rest of the band remain in Yorkshire, but the softly spoken singer makes little distinction between "North and South". "I set a double-decker on fire," he says, "but I don't think it's a double-decker problem, it's a double-decker problem." "But that's not North and South, that's just real people and..."

Together, since 1992, Embrace's apparent overnight success actually took years of painstaking preparation. Like most bands of their generation, their first incarnation was an amateurish and derivative distillation of such influences as the Smiths and Stone Roses. But, unlike most bands, they were disciplined and ambitious enough to recognise that merely being local heroes was not enough. Hence their decision, in 1993, to shun public appearances and concentrate on honing their craft. Danny abandoned his psychology degree course in Manchester and applied himself to songwriting full-time. "We just hid away for two years," says Heaton, "writing songs in my bedroom. Two years of sitting and playing and writing songs, five nights a week and weekends."

'There's enough room in the charts for three great bands'

Embrace did not grow up in public, and Richard attributes the band's later-day success to their long apprenticeship in the wilderness. "If we'd been signed three or four years earlier, we'd probably have gone down the pan, because we just weren't good enough," he admits.

Danny emerged from self-imposed exile with severe timidity in one ear, but a fully realised blueprint for the Embrace sound: crafted, fine ballads with achingly tender, choirboy vocals which are slowly engulfed by booming guitars and, sometimes, entire orchestras. The band then sent 30 tapes to management companies, and received 25 positive replies. They eventually signed to Virgin management and the Virgin-linked record label Hut, which also happens to be the Verve's, although Danny is at pains to stress that *Big Life* is not their label.

This is clearly a sensitive subject, especially since some critics have dismissed Embrace as lazy Verve copyists. "I know there is this idea that we're some kind of Oasis-meets-Verve amalgam," Danny sighs. "Like we're a manager's dream, and we've been groomed to look like lads from up North. I find that incredibly cynical. It's more a reflection on London journalists than it is on me. But at the end of the day, I'm playing to a sold-out Brixton Academy in a few weeks and they're not."



"We're just normal people who write good songs," Embrace say. This is not, however, as modest as it may seem. "We want the normal people to take over the castle," they add

It is not so much the sound but the timing of Embrace's album which has fuelled this cynicism. With Oasis on holiday and the Verve currently in disarray following the sudden departure of guitarist Nick McCabe, some pundits have suggested that Embrace are essentially understudies filling a gap in the market. Danny, of course, rejects this view. "If we had been less precious and more career-minded, we would have released our album before both of their albums came out last year," he says. "We would have done a lot better, because then Oasis and the Verve would have been seen as post-Embrace. But it's alright, there's enough room in the charts for three great bands."

Danny is treating carefully these days, sobering the contentious tone of previous interviews. He even resorted to phoning Verve singer Richard Ashcroft recently to smooth over a potential slur. Noel Gallagher once famously remarked that the Embrace singer "needs singing lessons", but nowadays all three bands present a united front in public. But while he may be more circumspect these days, Danny does not regret his boastful past. "If we hadn't told everybody that the album was going to be great, it wouldn't have been as good as it is," he shrugs. "It was a way of making sure we went away and worked really hard. Some people stick a needle in their arm or go and visit the pyramids, but we just told everybody we were going to be great, then went away and tried to be."

The allusion to drugs is significant, since Embrace have also attracted comment for their clean-living aversion to chemical or alcoholic excess. "I know there are bands out there who do heroin," Danny says, "but I listen to their music and there's nothing in there I want. I wouldn't mutilate myself for the sake of a good song. I keep coming back to this, but there's nothing special about us. We're just normal people who happen to write good songs. I want the normal people to take over the castle."

My Weakness is None of Your Business is released on Monday by Hut. Embrace's tour begins at Glasgow Barrowlands on Sept 4

Quality worth trumpeting

GERARD PRESENCER

Playpus (Linn AKD 079)
WHEN he first burst upon the UK jazz scene with Clark Tracey in the late 1980s, Gerard Presencer was most strongly influenced, in his bright, fluent trumpet style, by the acoustic Miles Davis of the early 1960s.

JAZZ ALBUMS

Like the Australian egg-laying mammal that provides the inspiration for their name, Presencer's band might appear to be composed of apparently disparate elements, but is an outfit superbly adapted to its musical environment: the inexhaustibly eclectic late 1990s.

Ten years on, Presencer's debut recording as a leader acknowledges later electric Davis albums — the likes of *Black and Blue*, *Live-Evil* and *On the Corner*, for example — as its chief influence. The imaginative flair and agile grace of his soloing are undimmed, however, and he rides the various grooves laid down by his rhythm section — whether bubblingly exuberant, lightly funky, or quietly understated — with the same breezy assurance he displays in straightforward contexts.

His chief solo foil here is Jason Rebello, whose garrulous electric piano sound lends a suitably Milesian aura to the album. But do not underestimate the contributions of guitarist John Parricelli and bassist Andrew Cleary, who also provide gutsy, cogent solos. And the whole band is sparked by the rock-influenced drumming of Jeremy Stacey who also fills the role of producer.

NICK KELLY

CHRIS PARKER

Snap, crackle and some pop corn

THE AUDIENCE
theaudience
(e)lef/ele/mercury
50 771-2 ELS99

TIPPED at the beginning of the year as one of the bands likely to catch the eye in 1998 (and not just because of the way they spell their name), the audience have not quite delivered on their early promise with this, their debut album. Still, if you like your pop music clever and coy there's much here to recommend.

Not least of which is lead singer Sophie Ellis Bextor, the London-based sexier teenage glamour-puss who affects a "been there done that" attitude which belies her tender years. The songs are written, however, by Billy Reeves, the band's thirty-something guitarist, who tailors his lyrics to suit his leading lady's primary concerns — fame and blazes.

nine different names on the production credits, the record has a rather disjointed feel about it at times.

SALAKO
Re-Inventing Punctuation
(e)lephant/ele/mercury
50 771-2 ELS99

NAMED after an Indian rain god, Salako are Hull's answer to Beck. And stop sniggering at the back: *Re-Inventing Punctuation*, the publicity-shy four-piece's debut album, is actually something of a hidden treasure.

The vocalist and songwriter James Waudby is obviously in thrall to psychedelic 1960s pop, but rather than just provide musical facsimiles of these era he creates a multi-coloured collage, combining achingly lovely melodies with scatterings of 1990s drum beats, conversation samples and, on *Could Things be the Same*, background sound effects courtesy of a flock of seagulls.

NEW POP ALBUMS

collage, combining achingly lovely melodies with scatterings of 1990s drum beats, conversation samples and, on *Could Things be the Same*, background sound effects courtesy of a flock of seagulls.

With songs mapping out the history of spoken language (*Words are not Useful*) and the life of the village recluses

(Story of Bill). Waudby appears to be something of an eccentric genius.

SINEAD LOHAN
No Mermaid
(Capricorn)
GRACD29 ELS99

HAVING signed a three-album, million-dollar deal with Interscope in America, the Cork singer-songwriter Sinead Lohan is being touted as the next big Irish superstar. But while her new album, *No*

Mermaid, certainly signals a creative advance on her 1995 debut, *Who do You Think I Am*, it still offers a rather low creative return on investment.

The heavyweight producer, Malcolm Burn, has brought the most sophisticated production values (check out the eerie atmospherics of *What Can Never Be*) to Lohan's folk primitivism and enlisted some fine session musicians to cloak Lohan's impressionistic songwriting, which is big on inscrutable metaphors and (extremely) low on intelligible meaning. *Disillusioned*, for example, is let down by lines like: "In agony we drew a circle with a stone/What's the colour of the raindance I don't know." This sort of cod-Celtic mysticism may go down well in New York but to these ears it sounds like so much gobbledygook.

charts and Kelly Price simultaneously occupying the upper regions of the *Billboard* Top 20 in America, the stage is set for Island Records to launch two more prospective soul superstars.

Both have every chance of becoming just that, possessing strong, throaty vocal styles that can convey emotional heartbreak and sexual rapture with equal force.

Both of these albums have their moments — Hicks's risque *When You Touch Me There*; Price's forthcoming single, *Friend of Mine*, a gloriously bitter swipe at the now-former friend who pinched her lover. But, over the course of a full album, they ultimately get bogged down in the sort of generic R&B-soul clichés that dog the genre.

NICK KELLY

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- (1) *Talk on Corners* — Corn (Atlantic)
- (2) *Intimations* — Corn (Atlantic)
- (3) *Intimations* — Corn (Atlantic)
- (4) *Intimations* — Corn (Atlantic)
- (5) *Intimations* — Corn (Atlantic)
- (6) *Intimations* — Corn (Atlantic)
- (7) *Intimations* — Corn (Atlantic)
- (8) *Intimations* — Corn (Atlantic)
- (9) *Intimations* — Corn (Atlantic)
- (10) *Intimations* — Corn (Atlantic)

Copyright © 1998. Figure in brackets indicates last week's position

Caitlin Moran on the inherited homesickness that inspires much of our best music

Talking 'bout the next generation

YOU can usually make a fairly informed punt on the future of music by looking in the news pages. Spells of economic thrust and boom precipitate yards of hoirid yuppie-rock (*Sade*, *Live Aid*). Wars provoke hideous yawling by the Cranberries. Short-lived nihilist phenomena trigger a song by Catatonia (*Road Rage, Mulder and Scully*). The release of a Hollywood flop so massive it sinks the film studio sees Suggs's soundtrack contribution crashing in at No 42. And any change in immigration laws will dictate whether the next generation's pop is hangin' or clanging.

Almost any cultural "discovery" is, obviously, someone else's old thing presented to a new audience. But this constant influx is vital. The main reason our small island is disproportionately ace at turning

out pop phenomena is down to successive waves of immigrants: the second-generation Irish gave us the Beatles; the Smiths, Oasis, the Bee Gees and the Sex Pistols; India gifted us Cornershop; Talvin Singh and half the decent clubs in London; while the Caribbean and Africa have contributed Massive Attack, Tricky, Roni Size, the Specials, UB40 and Courtney Pine.

Second-generation kids are where the Pop Gold lies, because they re-evaluate. Their new views give us endless opportunities to reinvent ourselves. On the most profound level, this encompasses Massive Attack's *Unfinished Sympathy* and Soul II Soul's *Back To Life*, songs which told a worldwide audience that Britain was feverishly reinventing itself as a modern, cosmopolitan country; that a new genera-

tion of artists, clubbers and promoters was remoulding and regenerating the deserted, post-industrial cities.

Second-generation kids are also unconsciously schooled by their parents in the art of Being a Star. They have it drummed into them to be proud of what they are, ignore criticism (unless it comes from Mum) and work hard.

They become adept at assuming different personas for differing companies. The process of reinvention starts as soon as they step outside the house — the make-up goes on, skirts are tucked up, sexy-and-forbidden shoes taken out of the school bag. They front. They cast themselves anew.

The most fabulous asset of this double culture is, however, something that these immigrant parents pass on entirely unconsciously. In Welsh, it is called *hiraeth* — there is no direct translation, because it's something that affects the guts, not the brain, but it's roughly equivalent to longing. Longing for a land, the land: the homesickness of the diaspora. Immigrant parents are in constant, quiet mourning for their homeland: it is a neatly covered hole in the centre of them. This hole is passed along to the children, along with DNA. It's this nameless ache that translates into music as well: the inarticulate hunger of Oasis (second-generation Irish in Manchester); Cornershop's unreachable visions of paradise (second-generation Sikhs in Wolverhampton); and the Pigeons' dislocated hauntings (second-generation Haitians in New York).

It's this combination of crowd-pleasing stardom and unbearable gut-tugging that makes immigrants parries the best gig you'll ever attend. Whether it's a Punjabi wedding, a Caribbean birthday or an Irish wake, the evening starts off with furious dancing music, with all the uncles squabbling over the instruments and/or stereo. Then one relative, drunk but oddly clear-eyed, will strike up with something that stirs the room, and has the men looking into their pints while their wives stare out of the window. And just before the weeping starts, he'll lead off with something furious and flammable again, and the kids will jump up and spill their Ribena on the carpet, and the aunts will scold them for starting a riot.

And if that isn't perfect training for thrilling thousands at Wembley, then what is?

recommendscountry

Nobodys Love, Nobodys Gets Hurt
SUZY BOGGUSS

Includes "Somebody to Love" and guest performances from Garth Brooks, Trish Wadsworth and other Nashville greats.

THE KEY
VINCE GILL

This self-composed album is hailed as his best to date and represents a return to his Nashville roots.

SPYBOY
EMMYLOU HARRIS

A startling new album, that traces a long and distinguished career and redefines her cutting edge approach.

WRITE IT IN STONE
KEITH HARLING

Often compared with the legendary George Strait, Harling's old-fashioned voice makes this a classic debut album.

BIG BACKYARD BEAT SHOW
BR5-49

An irresistible mix of western swing, rockabilly and honky-tonk, combining nine original songs and five covers.

HELL AMONG THE YEARNINGS
GILLIAN WELCH

A darker, reflective follow-up album to the Grammy nominated debut "Revival".

over 100 stores nationwide or order by phone now on 0990 33 45 78

And now, the dollypop newspaper

How the Daily Star discovered a novel solution to the problem of attracting new young readers

Hanging over Andy Flint-off's peg when fans were allowed a rare peep inside England's dressing-room after Monday's victory over South Africa was a vast pin-up, the size of this page, of Jordan, a topless model, published that morning in the *Daily Star*.

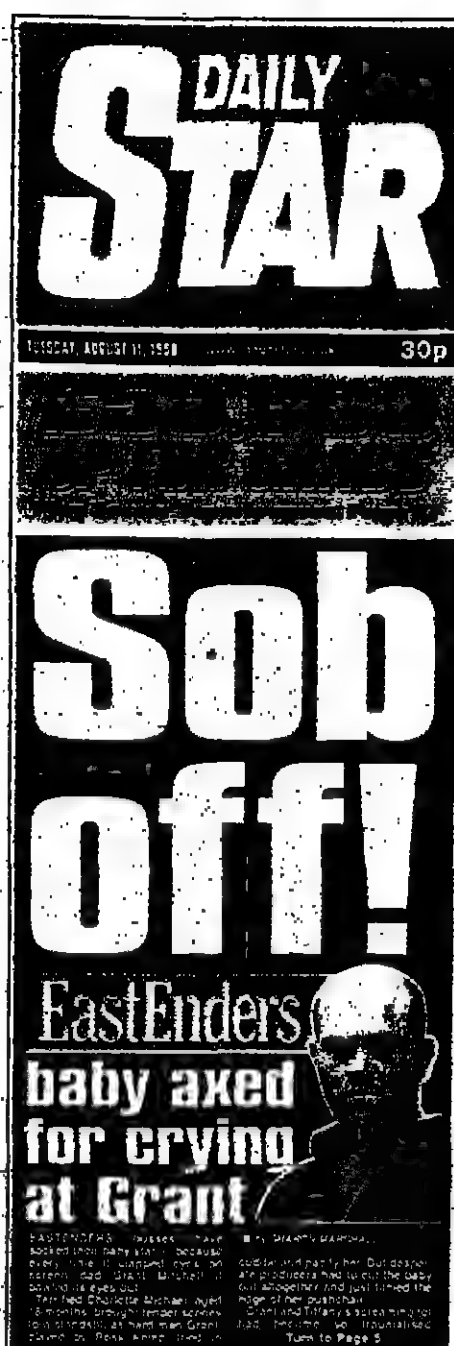
Next morning, as most tabloids — and *The Daily Telegraph* — concentrated on *Tatler's* photographs of a topless Anthea Turner, *Star* Editor/Captain Phil Walker decided to put Jordan in to bat for a second innings. There were at least four reasons. The fee of £2,000 for the Turner photograph was a big step for the *Star* (which ranks third among the mass-market tabloids). The choice of Jordan also meant that the *Star* front page looked different from *The Sun* and *The Mirror*. Walker could also use three more pictures of Jordan, in two of which she was topless, and, above all, his subs could exploit their talent for puns.

Beware, you may be about to groan. Jordan had served up "a couple of stunning bouncers" to help England win, the *Star* proclaimed. "Out of her covers and showing a very fine leg," she was "the maiden the whole nation would love to bowl over". She was then "caught leg before" in another topless pose as she helped to "stump" the South Africans.

Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear: *Star* subs hit seven puzzling googlies. You either enjoy that sort of journalism or you don't and if you don't, it is easy to mock. Yet they are the work of skilled, intelligent journalists who enjoy their job and who know what they are doing and why.

At 54, Walker is a Fleet Street veteran who was deputy editor of the *Daily Mirror* in the Maxwell era and who has now edited the *Daily Star* for five years. He is a keen student of 19th-century history and an avid birdwatcher. A text behind his desk declares: "He who hoos with the owl by night/Shall not soar with the eagle by day". It is, he thinks, the perfect motto for life in Fleet Street.

His office is also decorated with many other awards, principally for the *Star's* sense of pun. There is *The Big Breakfast's* 1997 Pin of the Year, "We Ticks More Care of



Girls, showbiz gossip, excruciating puns... and very, very little news. The front and back pages of the *Daily Star* from earlier this week might be easy to mock, but they are highly crafted

Phew! and another Pin of the Month. "Vaseconomy. Dad has Snippets", though I sensed that as a twitchee, Walker's personal favourite appeared recently over the *Star's* weekly birdwatching column, "Segrets: I've Had A Few".

He now presides over what could be described as Britain's first newsless national newspaper — an accusation he rejects. Yet on Tuesday night, the top five items on *The Times* news schedule were: Govt defends economic policy. BP and Amoco in £67bn merger. Govt bans 36 Ecstasy-style drugs. Lord Chancellor aims to lose his breeches. British Army officer suffocates. *The Star's* schedule was briefer: Brawl Sains, Girl Band Bust Up, Chris

Evans sacked me for bedding his girl. Amanda Robbins (out-up). Boys 7 and 8 charged with murder. BP/Amoco merge. The BP story got a paragraph on page two, against ten in *The Sun* and 15 in *The Mirror*.

What to do to save the *Daily Star* is a textbook study for marketers. One problem is that its readership is overwhelmingly weighted to young, C2DE men. It is a paper for lads, demonstrated by its headline after David Beckham's World Cup downfall: "Sorry Lads, no tits in the *Star* today — only David Beckham". Another is that, year-on-



year, sales are down 11 per cent to 574,000, against 2,340,000 for *The Mirror* (down 1.2 per cent) and 3,700,000 for *The Sun* (down 2.3 per cent). There are no prizes for being third in a market of three.

When Tony Blair's research guru Philip Gould (a non-executive director of the Express group, which owns the *Star*) staged focus groups,

there were two main messages. One was that the *Star* could not carry on as it was. The other was that it needed to understand how young readers consumed news — which meant a more lively approach, news as nuggets and a paper almost totally devoted to entertainment.

On the front page, there is now a mix of a daily semi-topless, four weird and wonderful news shorts and a splash, devoted this week to Dwight Yorke and a stripper, the *EastEnders* baby, the All Saints pop group, and Adriana Sklenarikova, a former lover of Mick Huck-

nell. There is pun after pun after pun in the headlines on the inside pages. Yesterday's batch included Six Crimes Table and Sling Yer Hunk.

Within an hour last week, I had two contradictory responses to Walker's new *Daily Star*. One was an inquiry into whether *The Times* needed to order the paper any more for circulation to staff: was it any longer a must-read? Another was from the 27-year-old executive who runs the Media pages, Bridget Harrison, who responded by saying how much she enjoyed reading about *EastEnders* and football in the *Star* on her journey home by Tube.

That was music to Walker's ears,

since Harrison is just the sort of young woman reader he hopes to attract. But won't women be offended by the topless models? Apparently not, he says, and some enjoy comparing their assets with those of the models.

Walker enjoys his work. "I love the *Star*," he says. "What I like doing most is making people laugh. We don't take the world too seriously. As for the puns, they're part of the cheeky, bright and breezy atmosphere of the paper."

The *Star* has always lived precariously. The new strategy, which puts the paper somewhere between *The Sun* and *The Sport* as a dolly pop, must be seen as the last throw of the dice.

Channel 4 goes it alone

FOR some years now, the ad industry has been afraid of companies other than agencies winning clients' advertising accounts. This fear was first inspired by Coca-Cola's decision to appoint the Creative Artists Agency in the early 1990s. But Coke turned out to be a maverick marketer, not a trendsetter. No major client has looked beyond its ad agency since — until this week. It was scarcely a decision as radical as Coca-Cola's, but Channel 4's move to sever its 16-year relationship with B&W in favour of Britain's leading film promotion company, The Creative Partnership, will cause ripples.

The Creative Partnership is best known for its work on movies such as *Trainspotting*, *Reservoir Dogs*, *12 Monkeys* and *Tomorrow Never Dies*. It handles everything from trailers to posters. The idea is that it will now be the leading creative agency in a group of suppliers that David Brook, Channel 4's iconoclastic director of strategy and development, is putting together to create the station's advertising. This group may or may not include an ad agency.

The idea is reminiscent of the set-up Brook had in his last job, as the launch marketing director of Channel 5. There he employed a "virtual agency" of trendy young companies such as Mother and Michaelides & Bodnash to create what many regard as the smartest

launch advertising campaign in the media sector in recent times.

Although Brook has taken pains not to criticise his former agency publicly, he clearly believes that ad agencies have a blanket approach to solving their clients' problems, and forget the inherent differences between the brands they are asked to advertise. He told *Campaign*

Digital and the digital racing channel. He is seeking to create both a sense of event around individual programmes and an accumulated sense of excitement around the channel.

Many old hands in advertising will respond to this with a knowing smile. After all, media clients always know better than their agencies, sometimes even thinking they can write the ads better themselves.

But Brook is good at persuading people to give of their best. The putting together of his group of suppliers in the coming weeks will be interesting to observe, as will the first work from The Creative Partnership. There is little doubt that many in the business will be hoping the project fails. Mr Brook's comments this week will irritate them, if only because they challenge the long-accepted norms of the UK ad industry.

Stefano Hatfield

this week: "Channel 4 is an entertainment provider, not a can of baked beans or a packet of crisps. The skills required are different."

One challenge facing Channel 4 is to learn how to use its on-air promotional time better, faced as it is by the loss of free promotional airtime on ITV.

The station's marketing, once innovative, has come to appear a little formulaic. Brook is looking for both clever use of mixed media and the "must-see" feel that, for example, the *Trainspotting* launch campaign achieved.

He must also address the impending launch of Film Four on both digital satellite and analogue, and later Channel 4

the business will be hoping the project fails. Mr Brook's comments this week will irritate them, if only because they challenge the long-accepted norms of the UK ad industry.

TRY as I might, I have never really understood the Caffrey's ad campaign, despite the success attributed to it by the beer's brewer, Bass. The latest ad, in which a gang of friends go out on the town to the tune of Cornershop's *Brim Full of Asha*, is just the latest in a series which appeared to feature people's fun being ruined by taking a sip of Caffrey's.

The most incomprehensible ad in the series was set in Cuba. There, a man out on a hot night of rum and Latin babes in Havana bizarrely orders a pint of Caffrey's. Even more bizarrely, the barman stocks it. Then, just when you thought you were in an *X-Files* episode, he starts dreaming of what appears to be the dreary Irish shipyard he grew up in.

But I was a lone dissenting voice. Everyone else seemed to love it and the Caffrey's launch was deemed a success — until now, that is. WCRS, the agency that created the campaign and which last week won the lottery (a week's a long time in advertising) has lost the account amid mutterings that the strategy was "too melancholic".

Obviously Caffrey's drinkers are destined for a few more laughs. Rose & Partners, the low-profile agency that picked up the account, is also responsible for bringing us "whoosa! Body-form!" The mind boggles.



Trainspotting

● The author is Editor of *Campaign*

Angels in the Sky

Susan Karlin reports on a massive branding campaign



Action: Elisabeth Murdoch has big plans for Sky

With the impending explosion of television channels, it was only a matter of time before the British networks began aggressively forging strong identities to stand out from the programming noise.

British Sky Broadcasting is the first such platform to do so on a grand scale — with a £9 million branding campaign covering its corporate identity and, by autumn, 200 film, entertainment, news and sports channels.

In a way, it is fitting. Rupert Murdoch — the chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, which is the parent company of *The Times* and associate company of BSkyB — introduced the concept of network branding to American television when he started Fox in 1987. Now his daughter Elisabeth, Sky's general manager, is continuing the family business tradition.

"In a multichannel environment, especially in niche programming, it is important to have a clear relationship with your audience, that you know who they are and care that they like you," says Ms Murdoch, who turns 30 this month.

"You have to remind people of the emotional value they are getting out of the service. The context you place them in gives them more value to the person who's paying for those premium channels."

Sky's new identity is the result of an eight-month collaboration with Pittard Sullivan, a Los Angeles marketing firm that has also crafted image campaigns for HBO and CBS. Before this campaign, viewers primarily identified Sky as an aggressive and innovative satellite channel distributor and sports programmer, but were less familiar with its entertainment and news channels.

"Our challenge was how to turn a sports star into an entertainment star," says the president, Ed Sullivan. "News is important, but it's a secondary priority. Movies were perceived as being at the top of the entertainment service, followed by Sky One as a commercial network. What could

we do to make the service more valuable to customers and signal to them that things were new at Sky?"

The overall promotional, scheduling and programming sensibility will more closely target a pop culture-orientated audience, from age 18 to 49, with the focus on 18 to 34.

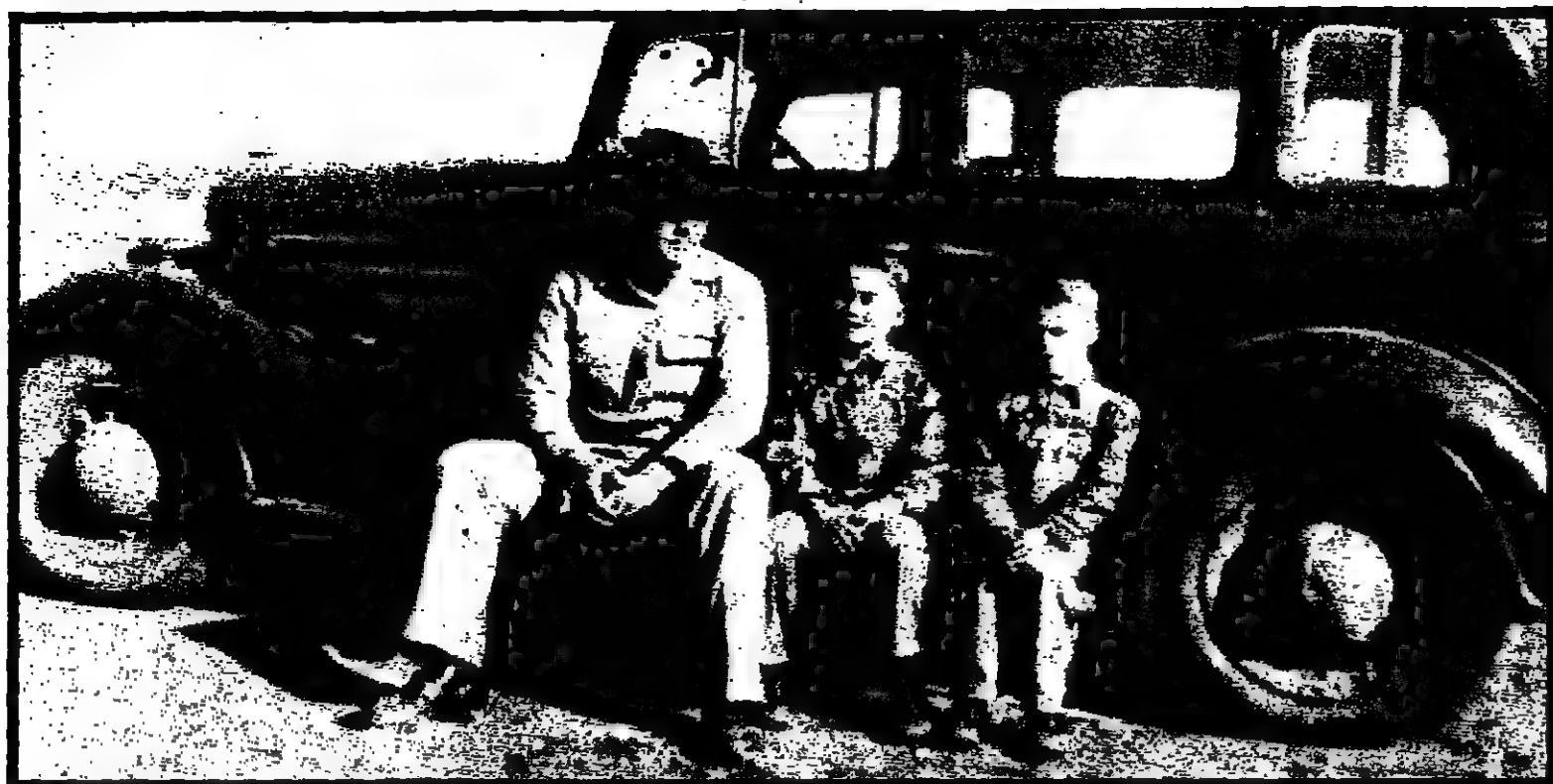
News and sports will feature related magazine shows offering in-depth and British perspectives on each channel's topics. "The new brand strategy is to get in touch with the consumer. Think globally, act locally," says Sullivan.

The branding process began with a corporate advertising

campaign created by M&C Saatchi in London. It featured ads promoting Sky's range of programming genres with the final frame depicting a rotating satellite dish turning into the Sky logo with the phrase "All you need is Sky". May I saw a reworked square logo and MTV-style promos for Sky One, the channel for young, hip entertainment programming. The new Sky Sports logo and graphics aired on August 3, featuring "Sky Sports" in white letters against a red and blue background. This week Sky News unveiled its spinning red and blue globe logo accompanied by lists of upcoming shows. Ms Murdoch hopes this will convey a "modern, switched-on look".

But the campaign's crown jewel will be the September 10 debut of the revamped Sky movie channels. Replacing unthemed film channels will be three distinct types of programming: Sky Premier with its spots of angelic women in billowing silk and orchestral music, will offer such films as *The English Patient* and a more ethereal, grander upscale feel. Sky Moviemax, depicted in bold, block lettering and accompanied by pop music, will run blockbusters such as *Liar, Liar* and *Die Hard*; and Sky Cinema, whose logo is a woman in a 1950s-style ballgown with outstretched arms holding balls of light, will hark back to old-time Hollywood.

In addition to airing American hits such as *The X-Files* and *The Simpsons*, Ms Murdoch also wants Sky to develop its own stars and signature shows. She highlights Premier's upcoming Barry Norman's *Film Night*, hosted by the critic and original Sky movies to air early next year, as well as Sky One's entertainment reality show *Thisa Uncovered* and the football soap, *Dream Team*. It is also forging relationships with US production firms such as the Carney-Werner Company, the producer of *Third Rock from the Sun* and *Roseanne*, to co-develop formats that can work here and in the US.



Not such a beautiful morning: A family of 'Okies' make the trek from Oklahoma to California to try to escape the Depression in 1930s America

America, our America

One of the unwritten laws of television is that the Americans own the copyright on America. So when a London production company makes not one, but three documentaries about American history, and they are shown to critical acclaim across the US, gaining more Emmy nominations than most US channels, it is a phenomenon.

The company, Atlantic Productions, was founded in 1993 by Anthony Geffen after a ten-year career at the BBC during which he was responsible for such programmes as *Great Journeys* and *Hiroshima: Behind the Myth*.

"I left the BBC because I got fed up with the bureaucracy," he says. "Furthermore, although I still had the vision to make the kind of films I was interested in, it didn't have the money." So with the promise of some backing from the American channels A&E and Discovery, he decided to go it alone.

Since then Atlantic has made a number of high-profile films, including *The Promised Land*, the story of the

A British company is telling the US some home truths, says John Crace

black migration across America, and *Prohibition*. Its most recent production is *The American Dream*, which was such a hit when it was shown on Discovery that the White House asked for a copy for President Clinton. The programme is now being broadcast on Sunday nights on BBC2.

It is truly astonishing that Atlantic is making films in a way supposed to be anathema to Americans, who are traditionally parochial and possessive about their history, and like to coat everything with a sanitised veneer. All three films have an unparalleled wariness-and-all objectivity.

"The subject matter is painful for a society trying to come to terms with itself," says Geffen. "But we wouldn't have agreed to make the series if we'd had to compromise the fundamentals of the stories we were telling." Despite

the enthusiasm of key individuals such as Greg Moyer, the president of Discovery, and Brooke Johnson at A&E, it is almost certain that none of the documentaries could have been made by an American company. There is no tradition in the US of in-depth research and telling a story through the lives of ordinary people: Americans tend to make films about big names, and mould the stories to fit the legends. Perhaps the only people who could sell a truthful version of America to America were outsiders.

Furthermore, Geffen found that many Americans, blacks especially, were willing to trust a British crew. "It was as if the fact that we were British broke through a class barrier," says Geffen. "Because they couldn't place us exactly socially, they felt that they could trust our objectivity. They be-

lieved we would listen to their stories and reproduce them accurately, rather than edit them to fit our own preconceived opinions."

Atlantic has not grown rich on the back of its success. Indeed, if the company were driven by commercial success it would have probably produced a feeble, watered-down series — in much the same way as Granada ruined *Cracker* when it made its US derivative. Not that the money worries Geffen — much. For the most part he is happy to be shooting the films he wants to make. "We've been bombarded with so much US culture over the past 50 years and we have a duty to investigate and understand its origins."

So what comes next? "We're doing a film for Discovery and Channel 5 on the LA Police Department. Can you imagine an institution with more television myths to unpick? Fourth time lucky for Atlantic? I wouldn't bet against it."

● The American Dream is on BBC2 on Sundays at 7pm.

The land of the corn-fed viewer

For generations, Brits have been going to America and, under the influence of jet lag, flicking aimlessly from channel to channel in their hotel bedrooms and coming to the familiar conclusion that there is nothing to watch on American TV.

You have only to peep momentarily into *Late Night with David Letterman* to feel that there is almost certainly something in the ancient verity. On one night earlier this month this institution of American 'broadcasting' was, for some unaccountable reason, reading off cards, one after the other, no fewer than 28 euphemisms of rapidly accelerating banality, for sexual intercourse.

Just to be sure, before he started, the leader of his band was asked to explain to the audience what a euphemism was. Such snatched moments inevitably feed deeply ingrained British prejudices about the nature of American television that are probably mistaken. The hotel bedroom test is not a fair one.

The careless tourist with his remote control can quickly assemble a fine selection of garbage without knowing where to find the quality within an expanding multichannel world. This is still the system, after all, that produces such fine drama and comedy as *ER* and *Friends*.

Yet some things really do not seem to change. The sheer corniness of the presenters on breakfast television, the abiding interest with helicopter views of traffic conditions on the way to work, and the near-total lack of information from the rest of the world still irritate just as much as they did a decade ago. And the random flick-test, for all its inadequacies, seems to suggest that although new channels may be arriving all the time, not a whole lot new is going on in American television at the moment.

The car radio dial is equally full of maddeningly male presenter, unadventurous music and intrusive ads. The information-deprived tourist soon cannot help falling into the arms of CNN *Headline News* — slogan: "Give us half an hour and we will give you the world." Hardly. Until the bombs went off in East Africa there was an almost total obsession with the affairs of Monica Lewinsky. And with the exception of an occasional soft, timeless foreign story, such as a feature item on the rebuilding of Beirut, there seemed to be a complete preoccupation with all things American. For some reason, CNN Interna-

tional, which has made an effort to recognise the existence of the rest of the world, hasn't made it into every American hotel yet. CNN *Headline News* should carry a health warning: too much can lead to serious mental derangement among viewers.

Even *USA Today*, which was plopped uninvited outside the hotel room door every morning, although a much-improved newspaper, is unremittingly American in its coverage. It can manage a paragraph of news on every American state every day, but on some days recently could manage only a few paragraphs from the rest of the world.

By contrast, a British tourist finds the American film industry vigorous and challenging. A new release such as *Something About Mary* may be completely filthy but is genuinely witty and capable of

producing cross-generation belly laughs. Another recent release, Steven Spielberg's *Saving Private Ryan*, also seems to have got everyone from taxi drivers to Vietnam veterans discussing the nature of violence and its portrayal on the screen and whether the brutality of the opening scenes on Omaha Beach on D-Day represents a new honesty about war, or a new form of exploitation for the box office.

The impact is already considerable. In Chicago, for instance, an entire multiplex cinema has been given over to the film so that it is showing every half-hour. A definitive verdict will have to wait until the film opens in the UK, however.

Forgoing that Spielberg does not make short films, I had to drag myself away an hour before the end to avoid missing the plane home — only to find the plane had been delayed by two hours.

So at this moment I do not know whether *Private Ryan* was in the end saved — although I could make a shrewd guess — and will now have to creep into the film two thirds of the way through to find out.

Once on Omaha Beach with Spielberg was quite sufficient. And after two weeks of American channel-hopping it was with something approaching gratitude that I was able to embrace Jeremy Paxman and *Newsnight* once again and jump into the *Today* programme. Then it was off to the bath with *The Week* to find out what I had missed in the world while away. If their equivalents exist somewhere in America, then I fear I did not find them.



Raymond S. Smith

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Need a he

'I want to see people laugh on the Tube'

Ed Needham tells Carol Midgley why the laddish *FHM* is the most successful magazine in Europe

Stroll past the offices of *FHM* magazine today and it is likely that you will hear the sound of backs being slapped and champagne bottles being uncorked. The latest Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) figures are released this morning and *FHM* is expected to set records by passing the 775,000 mark and leaving its rivals plodding behind.

The laddish appeal of *FHM* (For Him Magazine) may have boosted sales to nearly double that of its nearest competitor, *Loaded* — making it the most successful men's

also sees *FHM* as offering a practical service. "If a man has a bald spot or an odd-shaped penis, it's not the sort of thing he will confide in his mates about, but he can write to the magazine without fear of embarrassment. We are aimed at a section of the population who do not have the responsibilities of mortgages and kids, and who want to spend all their disposable income on clothes and holidays." Indeed, it is this quest for humour, which has caused thousands of females to desert the women's market. Some 18 per cent of *FHM* readers are female, and 30 per cent of people who read men's magazines are women.

Needham believes women's magazines have remained too unrealistically Utopian. Articles headlined "Look drop-dead gorgeous in time for Christmas" no longer wash with women because they know that if they have a deformed nose and are two stone overweight, it will not happen.

In the world of women's magazines there is also virtually no bad language or cruel humour and their messages are contradictory. "You might get an article saying how great it is to be a single, modern woman living alone and the next month an article detailing why you must have a man you can blissfully settle down with," Needham says. "A lot of women's magazines now use writers from the men's market because they know they will get funny pieces. But then they get nervous about the jokes and take them all out."

"It's not necessarily that the women's market is shrinking — it is a lot more competitive and so they are willing to take fewer risks. As a result they batten down the hatches and the titles look similar to each other."

And why, for instance, are there no articles about buying cars? Millions of women drive them but you would think from women's magazines that it never happened.

It is astonishing to reflect that ten years ago the men's magazine sector did not exist, but is now packed with flourishing titles such as *Loaded*, *GQ* and *Esquire*. The last ABC figures showed that *Loaded* was about 200,000 copies behind *FHM*, selling 441,567, and followed by *Maxim*, which sold 249,096 copies.

The *FHM* brand is now so strong that next month it will launch a spin-off title, *FHM Collection*, dedicated to male fashion, which will initially be published twice yearly.

"I like to see people laughing out loud on the Tube," he says. He



Modesty personified: Ed Needham, the Editor of *FHM*, says that the magazine's sense of humour is one of its strongest selling points

magazines were selling about 80,000 a month but they were all about fountain pens and Burberry raincoats," says Needham. 34, who five years ago was working as a translator in Barcelona.

It used to be regarded as rather cissy for men to be seen reading magazines but now men are flocking to them, possibly choosing them in favour of tabloid newspapers, which are suffering a decline.

"I like to see people laughing out loud on the Tube," he says. He

sense of humour which isn't pompous or exclusive. We never talk down to the readers but they are not expected to know about literary New York or the latest feminist writings from New Zealand.

"We do do stuff about relationships but we never sit with chin held between thumb and forefinger spouting pseudo sex therapy. Men tend to deal with such issues by treating them as a joke."

Thus there are articles on body odour and cars, quizzes on how to

find out if you really do still love your girlfriend and compilations of the world's maddest nutters. In the most recent issue there is a disarmingly honest account by a man who hated his life when his child was born. He confesses that the gory birth put him off sex with his wife and the sleepless nights almost wrecked their relationship.

"We got a letter from a mother-to-be about that, complaining that we were putting the fear of God into men. But you can't get away

from TV documentaries about the wonders of childbirth or male newspaper columnists telling us how great their kids are and how they change your life. This was just a different view."

Needham says that if the figures are as good as the experts predict, modest amounts of drink will be taken. "I think we will probably have a drink if the news is good," he says. "Last year we celebrated with two bottles of champagne and three packets of crisps."

Sounds of the century

Michael Green, the former Controller of BBC Radio 4, is recruiting producers for the biggest project in the history of radio. *Norfolk Marks* will be brought back to the corporation less than two years after retiring, he is directing the BBC's *Millennium Oral History Project*, a £13 million undertaking which will see 8,000 interviews recorded with people from all walks of life throughout the United Kingdom.

The result will be "a unique sound-map of the century" with more than 600 radio programmes broadcast across the 40 stations in the BBC local and regional radio network starting next September. The aim is both to create captivating radio and to capture a wealth of end-of-century material for future generations.

It is one of the centrepieces of the BBC's millennium celebrations, complementing a television history of Britain written and presented by Simon Schama, the historian, bolstered by multimedia plans for the resulting digitised interview material to include spin-offs for the BBC's website, BBC Online, CD-Roms and benefits for BBC Education.

In addition, all the interviews will be placed in the British Library's National Sound Archive, where they will comprise a new Millennium Memory Bank.

Green, who has spent large parts of his distinguished broadcasting career in Sheffield and Manchester, makes no apologies for this project being conducted through a service sometimes perceived as the poor relation to BBC network TV and radio. He points out that BBC local and regional radio attracts nine million listeners compared with eight million for Radio 4. It has, he says, "its feet in the soil in a way that not all sections of the BBC do".

The producers whom Green selects will each have to find 200 interview subjects to open up on radio and survey the century. That will require some sensitivity, as the project is not shying away from such areas as sexuality and the loss of childhood. Neither is it avoiding groups often neglected in programming, such as the homeless and immigrants: the social, racial and age ranges of the UK should hear their voices represented.

Unlike that other attempt to chart the lives of ordinary Britons, *Mass Observation*, or the ongoing *Seven Up* television series, Green says this project will provide a one-off snapshot of the century.

He and his advisers have devised a thematic approach. Rather than have programme headings with subjects such as *War or Women And Work*, there are more diffuse categories such as *Living Together*, *Who We Are and Life And Death*. The last programme in the series will be entitled *Where's Next?* In which participants will be asked about their hopes for the future and to consider the legacy of the 20th century.

"We are trying to tease out what's fresh and original and potentially unexpected," says Green. "The archives are already full of *When I Was On The Somme* and *When I Marched From Jarrow*. We want to find out how attitudes have changed, how lifestyles have changed, how what we believe has changed."

And for Green, only the corporation could pull off such a vast undertaking.

"A project of this kind is one of the joys and one of the responsibilities of public broadcasting," he says. "It is one of the things that the licence fee is there for."

Need a headline? Call Louise Woodward

■ GETTING Louise Woodward to appear at a session of this month's Edinburgh TV Festival smacks of a desperate bid to attract attention. The festival's declining status, noted here by Maggie Brown two weeks ago, is matched by the growing scepticism of the local TV company Scottish Television about the worth of the festival. Scottish stopped paying for the opening reception in 1996 although the company is still a sponsor at this time. Gus Macdonald, who has



Session: Louise Woodward

just stepped down as STV chairman to join the Government, was one of the spirits behind the festival and continued supporting it partly for sentimental reasons. His successor, Andrew Flanagan, has no such ties and brings an accountant's-eye view.

The view in Scotland seems to be that they are spending a lot of money just for a bunch of 25-year-olds to get drunk, so it is highly unlikely that any money will come out of Scottish sports for next year's festival.

■ OUR broadcasters believe viewers and listeners are broad-minded enough to accept transatlantic accents. They impose them on us not just in imported drama but even nowadays in strictly British contexts, such as reporting Parliament. Americans, though, do not reciprocate, says David Hulbert, managing director of European broadcasting for Walt Disney Television International.

At a preview this week of Disney's serial, *Microsoap*, co-produced with the BBC

and aimed at children from 11 to 15, Hulbert said the series cannot be shown to the Disney Channel's 42 million American subscribers because of the accents.

Young British actors play the children of separated parents coming to terms with their new extended families. But if *Microsoap* is a hit when the BBC shows it this autumn, Disney will reshoot it with American brats in the parts.

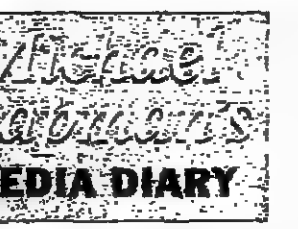
"British accents are a turn-off, except on the minority



Michael Gearheart's MEDIA DIARY

channels," says Hulbert. "Even *Thomas the Tank Engine* is dubbed in America now."

■ THE old *Sporting Life* used to be the bookmakers'



David Montgomery, chief executive of the Mirror Group, insists that the relaunch will go ahead and has asked the Fleet Street veteran Pat Pilton, managing editor of the group, to get the project back on track. Pilton's first task will be to find a new editor and assess the 60-strong staff already signed up.

Mulholland, meanwhile, is unlikely to be out of work for long. A City firm is said to be willing to back him if he wants to start a sports paper of his own and he has received tentative job feelers

from several papers. The only certainty is that he will not rejoin Montgomery's Mirror Group. "I'm spending this week looking after my seven-year-old daughter," he says. "It makes a change to have some sensible conversation after all that time." Bitter? Perish the thought.

■ CHANNEL 5's low-powered soap opera, *Family Affairs*, is having a makeover. Brian Park, fresh from successfully revamping *Coronation Street* for Granada, is to act as consultant for the series, shown five times a week, in an effort to increase its present audience of just over a million. *The Street* is watched by 15 million.

Park's first act has been to hire a new producer, 31-year-old Liz Lake, from Scottish TV's popular weekly soap *High Road*. She starts on Monday and is bringing two key colleagues from Glasgow to the West London studio of Pearson TV, which makes *Family Affairs* for Channel 5. If she follows Park's example on *The Street*, she will be

introducing tougher storylines and axing tired characters — although they ought not to be too tired after little more than a year of the show's life.

"It's definitely going to be worth watching," a Pearson spokeswoman enthuses, before adding quickly: "Not that it isn't worth watching now, of course."

■ NEVER too hot at keeping secrets to itself, the BBC is seeking to plug one of its most prolific sources of leaks — the misdirected fax. BBC faxes now contain this stern warning: "This is a private facsimile transmission intended for the named recipient only, and its contents may be confidential. If you are not the named recipient, you must not read, copy or use the content, or disclose them to any other person."

Clear enough — except that the warning comes at the bottom of the page, after Auntie's juiciest secrets have already been disclosed and absorbed. Eat this after you have read it.



Alec Stewart and sister

■ IT was hard to believe, but there it was on the front page of the *Evening Standard* on the day of England's cricketing triumph — a picture of skipper Alec Stewart in a quite intimate embrace with a blonde woman described in the caption only as "an England fan". Could this really be family man Stewart, noted for his squeaky-clean lifestyle, the Mother Teresa of the Oval? Well yes, but the "fan" was his sister Judy, who is married to Man of the Match Mark Butcher, Stewart's Surrey team-mate. And nobody on London's local paper recognised her.



Great divide: US audiences can't handle British accents

media times

Explosive story: Nicole Kidman and George Clooney make all the running in *The Peacemaker* — an action movie that was inspired by a magazine article

Hollywood goes to hacks

When Tina Brown announced that she was leaving *The New Yorker* to launch a media venture that will bring out a monthly magazine, produce films and TV shows and publish books, she was dubbed "the guinea-pig of synergy" between Hollywood and American publishing.

Miramax Films, the company she is joining, says that it is too early to say how the synergy might work. Among other cross-media benefits, though, it is hoped that articles from what Brown says will be a "provocative, contemporary" general-interest magazine will give Miramax material for film scripts.

In her new role, Brown, who edited *The New Yorker* for six years, will certainly be high-profile, but she will not be the first guinea-pig. Hollywood producers have been doing regular business with maga-

zines, their journalists and their agents for more than two years. They have taken out options on the in-depth, non-fiction articles which run in publications such as *The New Yorker*, *New York* and *Q*. In recent months, at least two other production companies have been linked with magazine publishers.

The publishing establishment is sometimes sniffy about dealing with Hollywood (one columnist at *The New York Times* joked that future Brown-Miramax productions might include things such as: "Consort — The Camilla Parker Bowles story. A supernatural thriller by Lillian Ross and Joe Eszterhas"). And some dealings on film rights for articles have raised

ethical questions among publishers and journalists. Until now, successful movies based on, or inspired by, magazine writing — such as DreamWorks SKG's *The Peacemaker*, drawn in part from a piece on nuclear smuggling — have been few and far between.

Producers, however, still appear eager to take out options on articles. Main projects now in the works are a film for Touchstone Pictures, based on a *Vanity Fair* piece about a tobacco industry whistle-blower, which will star Russell Crowe; a Fox 2000 film *Pushing Tin*, from an article in *The New York Times Magazine* about air-traffic controllers; and a project for Fox from a *Vanity Fair* story on the

struggle to solve America's largest art robbery.

Some producers suggest that magazines have become a more important source of movie material because of a dearth of good speculative scripts and the escalating cost of rights to books.

"The speculative script market has experienced a real downturn," says Scott Strauss, president of Outlaw Productions, which recently acquired the movie rights to a *New York* magazine story "Hoodfellas: The New Generation of Mail Rat Mobsters" and is developing the project at Warner Bros.

What producers look for in magazine journalism is "something unique and different," says Jerry Bruckheimer, whose *Top Gun* was inspired by a piece in *California* magazine. At present he is developing three magazine-derived projects. To keep tabs on possible material, he subscribes to about 100 magazines a month.

Strauss reports that after Outlaw bought *Hoodfellas*, "I got calls from every agency in town telling me about their top clients who had read the article and were as turned on as we were."

The downside to working from magazine stories is that the material often needs substantial development — to give it a suitably heroic lead, for example — and stories do not necessarily come cheap. If a piece draws a lot of attention, and a number of bidders, the rights can sell for \$500,000 (£300,000) or more.

Added to that is the cost of "life rights" to the main subjects of an article. These are sometimes bought separately by producers and occasionally pre-acquired by a journalist and offered in a package with the article by the journalist's agent.

To stake the earliest claim to desirable material, some producers and executives, such as Miramax, have sought to get closer to magazines.

Two-and-a-half years ago, Disney hired Susan Lyne, a former *Premiere* magazine Editor-in-Chief, to develop material in New York. Lyne and Disney-based Bruckheimer took out an option on a *Q* article about the murdered Irish journalist Veronica Guerin, and commissioned a journalist to research the case.

Bruckheimer, though, is looking to stay ahead of the game: he has a deal with a journalist who works for *Q* to get an early look at forthcoming articles.

Scott Greenstein, co-president of October Films, puts the issue of movie-magazine synergy in perspective. It can be valuable, he says, only "if the leap can be made from a good article to a great script." Finding an article is just "step one," he stresses. Miramax's deal with Brown, he adds, is about creating a magazine, rather than finding movie ideas. "They're not making this large investment solely for the articles."

● This article first appeared in Screen International.

It's all driving me digital

Andrew Chitty's launch diary of Britain's first digital production company

The digital age is almost upon us. BSkyB launches its satellite digital TV service on October 1. Within six months we will be bombarded with tens, perhaps hundreds, of new TV channels delivered via satellite, terrestrial and, eventually, cable systems. All the main players are in the game — the BBC, Sky, Granada and Carlton. And they are all claiming that their service will be the best, or the cheapest, or both. But what are we going to be watching?

For those of us who have produced for both television and the Internet, digital TV offers a convergence between computers and television, with enormous scope for interactivity and other innovations. But with low subscriptions, little additional advertising and a huge amount of airtime to fill, the budgets for any new programming commissioned by the media giants will be very small. Someone has to invent shows that will make this new medium worth watching and, even more importantly, worth buying.

Illumina is the first British production company devoted specifically to producing for digital. Only four weeks old and already transmitting five hours of programming a week, we are attempting to build a business where television and the Internet meet from interactive TV to digital learning.

To succeed in this new world, we think that producers should abandon many of the cosy practices they have learnt over the past ten years. Add to that the normal challenges of starting up any new company from scratch, and we have a lot to learn.

Sunday, August 2

It's the first night on air for our programmes on BSkyB's consumer and technology channel. Appropriately enough, we kick off with our new business programme *Start Up*, aimed at people who want to be the movers and shakers of the new economy. People like us! We should be having a launch party. Instead, I spend the evening poring over Illumina's business plan. If the plan is to become reality, I have to make the figures work. Management accounting is not the kind of skill I picked up producing *Horizon*.

August 3

In studio for the recording of our interactive arts programme, *The Lounge*. I first thought the team's ideas to be very ambitious. After three years editing *The Net* for BBC2, I'm a bit sceptical about anything which puts the words "digital", "performance" and "underground" in the same sentence. It's not that it isn't interesting, stuff (it is), whether it works or not (it usually does). But at least the producer has abandoned her scheme for presenting *The Lounge* from a hydraulic sofa.

Our team of multiskilled twentysomethings seem exactly the right people to discover the new genres of programming for the digital age. In the past, we have experimented with websites and virtual worlds running alongside TV. Now is the time to take the next step. *The Lounge* is aimed at an audience

that should be comfortable with experimental TV. If not with a hydraulic sofa.

August 5

Studio again for our enigmatically named Internet show, *404 Not Found*. Our strategy relies on multiscreening to a level that would frighten anyone used to old-style TV production. Training people is a real issue for us, with 404's website designer getting to grips with being a sound engineer and the researchers operating the cameras.

A lot of people talk about multiscreening, but we need people who can shoot and research, edit and appear on camera and then design Web pages.

Inside six months, The Plan says we will have moved on from just making programmes to combining them with Internet services as the first step towards truly interactive programming.

August 7

Board meeting with our newly appointed finance director. After a mammoth signing session for our much-delayed new building, we get down to the hard issue of cashflow. Our programmes have an hourly budget one twentieth that of the last series produced for the BBC. That's why we needed a new company, one that would work in a completely different way from previous independents.

Rather than using expensive facilities on an ad hoc basis, Illumina will become a one-stop shop with all our facilities in a single building — production office, studio, location shooting, editing and (soon) multimedia and digital video disc authoring facilities. Lots of appealing new technology. At the end

of the meeting our finance director solemnly intones "in a new company capital is muscle, but cashflow is blood". Profound, but what does he mean? I have a funny feeling that sometime later this year I'm about to find out.

August 9

I thought to be watching the most exciting cricket match of the decade but instead I'm back to financial projections. I'm getting further and further away from the programming and more and more wrapped up in the business side of things. Thank goodness exec producer Joanne Evans is running the show. She's also producing a baby. I wonder what maternity rights are due? Guess that's one question I can't ask the bank manager.

The word about Illumina does seem to be spreading. Other broadcasters seem to understand that a company devoted to supplying low-cost, high-volume content for digital TV and the Web will be incredibly useful as more and more channels come on stream. We're starting to talk to the BBC and Channel 4 digital channels, the cable companies and elements of the National Grid for Learning. Maybe we do know what we are doing after all. And only nine more shows to produce this week. No sweat.

● Andrew Chitty is the managing director of Illumina Ltd, currently broadcasting on Astra 1D, transponder 58 on BSkyB's TV channel.

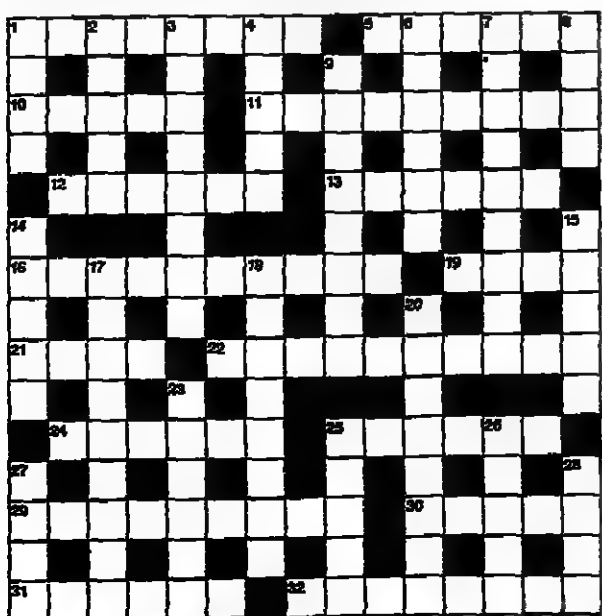
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WIN AN X-FILES HOLIDAY

Readers of *The Times* have the exclusive chance to win an exciting VIP fly-drive holiday for two to America, tailored for *X-Files* fans, courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox. The winner will visit the home towns of agents Fox Mulder and Dana Scully, Martha's Vineyard and Annapolis respectively, and spend two nights in Washington to tour the White House and Pentagon. Fans of the cult show, now a major film, will have no difficulty with our crossword, specially devised to coincide with the release at UK cinemas on August 21 of the *X-Files*, starring David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson.

FBI special agents Mulder and Scully are drawn into a web of intrigue while investigating the mysterious bombing of a Dallas office building — and the secrets buried inside. As well as the six-night holiday, there are 50 runners-up prizes of limited-edition *X-Files* merchandise to be won.

HOW TO ENTER For your chance to win a VIP trip to America, you must successfully complete the *X-Files* crossword using the clues published this week. You must also complete the tie-breaker on the entry form, which will appear again tomorrow. Send your entry, before Tuesday, September 1, 1998, to: *The Times/X-Files Competition*, PO Box 5070, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7FZ. No photocopied crosswords will be accepted.



ACROSS

- 1 Most of youth, note, Mulder lived here (8).
- 2 See Dana use anisidine, partly for this? (6).
- 3 Like an extraterrestrial body, strangely unlined with one part missing (8).
- 4 Shiner organisation two girls joined, we hear (5).
- 5 Row with unknown agent (6).
- 6 Nothing less than remarkable creator... (5).
- 7 ... who's at home here in 3 and 17, briefly (3,7).
- 8 As crafty as Mulder? (4).
- 9 What 32 got from leaders of entertainment, marking merit? Yes! (4).
- 10 Radio operated on time Samantha or Melissa heard (10).
- 11 Mischiefous tampering with files hard to follow (6).
- 12 Security personnel in a drugs bust (6).
- 13 Hotel where Mulder and Scully met in political conspiracy (9).
- 14 Person of key importance to big shot returned (5).
- 15 New role in my grasp? It goes up in smoke (6).

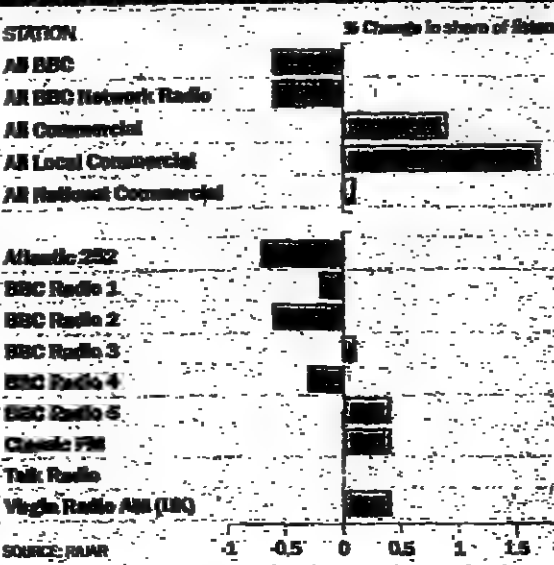
DOWN

- 1 Line in clip showing status of *X-Files* (4).
- 2 Taking section of FBI on, i countmandated order (5).
- 3 State of Scully's education (8).
- 4 Dangerous status Scully, initially, tries to enter (5).
- 5 Source of Scully's problem with buzzer (6).
- 6 A prospect, possibly, of installation for extraterrestrial travel (9).
- 7 Agent Krycek named among male *X-Files* characters (4).
- 8 Strange corn seen, appearing thus in movie (5).
- 9 Name attached to a piece of fiction — ET, for example (3).
- 10 He is well suited to be a gunman (5).
- 11 Astronauts trainee investing nothing in misplaced altruism (9).
- 12 No alien seen in Fox's home on island (8).
- 13 Origin of Duchovny's fully-grown fruit (3,5).
- 14 Get inside the part — right inside (6).
- 15 As literature as those little men (5).

CHANGING TIMES

mediawatch

COMMERCIAL RADIO FORGES AHEAD



MORE people are listening to commercial radio than BBC Radio and they are listening for longer, according to radio audience figures released by RAJAR last week.

For the second quarter of this year, commercial radio took a 5.1 per cent overall share of listening, against the BBC's radio service's 46.8 per cent. A further boost to commercial radio is that advertising revenue hit a record high of £12 million for this quarter, according to the Radio Advertising Bureau.

Hardest hit for the BBC is Radio 1, which lost about 300,000 listeners from its average weekly reach year on year. It is thought that many of these listeners have turned the dial away from Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball's breakfast show to listen to Vir-

gin Radio's rival programme hosted by Chris Evans. However, according to trends analysed by Mediab, the decline in listeners for Radio 1 has definitely been slowed.

Virgin, which Evans's Giger Media Group bought last December, is doing well under his control. Weekly reach is up by more than 16 per cent since Q2 1997. Radios 3 and 4 are performing well for the BBC, with Radio 3 achieving its highest Q2 figures in more than two years. The new schedule unveiled by Radio 4 in March this year is also pipping successful at this stage: it was the only BBC station to report a gain in listeners, quarter on quarter.

Mediawatch's online information and analysis is accessible at: <http://www.mediawatch.co.uk> Telephone: 0171-439 2752.

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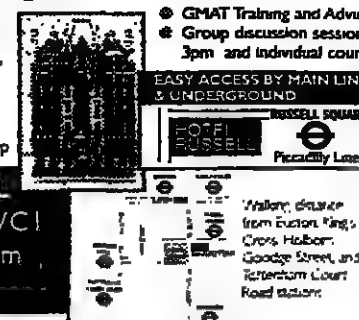
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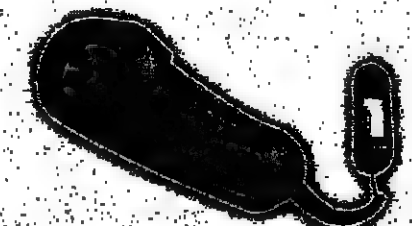
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The Times has also joined forces with ECCTIS 2000 to offer a telephone helpline providing up to the minute information on course vacancies and content at all HE Institutions in the UK. Trained advisers are available to discuss the options available to you by using the ONLY fully searchable vacancy information service.

On Thursday August 20th 'A' level results day, FREE copies of our clearing guide will be available from schools, look out for your copy and get the best results from your results.

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EDUCATION

Getting a grip on exams

Poor results do not spell failure, just a hitch. John O'Leary reviews the options

So what if the worst happens next Thursday and you don't make the grade. Do you resist? Should you give up and look for a job? Or should you chance your arm in clearing and settle for a lesser university or college?

The first and most important rule if results are disappointing is to keep a sense of perspective: resist any temptation to write yourself off as a failure. Plans may have to be redrawn and sights lowered temporarily, but this is a setback, not the end of a career, let alone a life.

Rule two is to avoid hasty decisions because the options are not as simple as they may seem. Particularly now that higher education has become an expensive proposition, a change of tack needs to be considered fully.

For those who only narrowly miss their required grades, the first thing to do is to check whether the university will take you anyway — or better still, get your school or college to do it for you. Admissions tutors will often prefer the devil they know to the pot luck of clearing, and an experienced teacher may be in the best position to convince them that the results do not do you justice.

If that does not work and you are convinced that an injustice has been done, it is possible to lodge an appeal. But bear in mind that you may have to postpone your entry to higher education to see the process through. The volume of appeals has been rising sharply and the success rate is good, but it can be a slow business and popular courses disappear quickly at this time of year. A gap year may be just what you need but, if not, accept the grades you are awarded.

The next temptation is to resist, especially if the school's prediction was at variance with your results. Again, think carefully before committing



Celebration time — but not everyone is a winner. Last year 1 in 6 school-leavers joined the scramble for a place in higher education

yourself. Some tutorial colleges boast impressive improvements (at a price) but most candidates who return to their old school or college do no better the second time round.

A marginal improvement may be worthless in any case because universities tend to demand higher grades if A levels are taken more than once. For most candidates, that leaves clearing — the process by which disappointed applicants are matched to the remaining places. With 50,000 students — one in six — finding their way into higher education by this route last year, there is nothing demeaning about joining the annual scramble. Speed is of the essence in the race for the few remaining places on popular courses, so the scope for error is considerable.

A recent survey showed that an alarmingly high proportion of students who went through clearing subsequently regretted their choice of course.

In particular, think carefully before switching subjects to take advantage of lower entrance requirements. Nothing is more likely to lead to disillusionment and eventual drop-out than a subject in which the student has little interest or aptitude.

Thorough research on the course and the institution is essential, even if you risk losing a place as a result. Better an apparently lesser option than three or four years of misery. Course content, location and accommodation options (if you intend to study away

from home) must all be investigated in detail before a final decision is made.

With the advent of university websites and helplines, the process can be completed more quickly than you might expect. The amount of movement in clearing is often exaggerated. Although the most sought-after courses will disappear quickly, many more are open for the rest of the month and beyond.

There should be no shortage of advice for aspiring students next week. As well as *The Times* helpline and the services offered by universities and colleges, local careers offices should be able to help. However, the starting point should be your school or college: they know you best and should be able to steer you in the right direction.

Are A levels really as good as gold?

Be aware of the real value of learning, says Mark Pyper

The interminable wait is almost over and thousands of young people experience temporary respite from tramping through Tuscany and lounging in Lanzarote to discover their fate at the hands of the A-level examiners. And just as August 20 will be a "fabulous" day for many and Armageddon for more than a few, the time is ripe to question not so much the inevitable benchmark qualities of this idiosyncratic system but whether it merits the sobriquet "gold standard".

"Gold" attracts overtones of ostentation and swagger not totally divorced from an arrogance which would claim the "one and only" label for A levels while looking down on other excellent systems such as the International Baccalaureate or Scottish Highers.

However satisfactory A levels may be for those who take and benefit from them, to claim for them a position of pre-eminence serves to undermine and dismiss the majority of the population who have different talents, who are busy obtaining other qualifications and who will be at least as useful to society as those who have traded in gold.

If the recipients of the result slips really believe they have an ingot of high-carat gold in their hands, we shall have done them and the rest of us a grave disservice. If success at A level has been of such paramount importance to teacher and student, the chances are that spoonfeeding will have played a substantial part in preparation for the exams.

Contrary to popular opinion, it is relatively straightforward to get a young horse to drink the water it finds in front of it.

What is much more challenging — and important — is for the same horse to appreciate for itself the need for water in the first place and then to have sufficient motivation and skill to seek it out.

Those who have been crammed can come sorely unshucked at the higher-education stage with disillusionment, mental turmoil and a limp academic performance: the frequent consequences.

Equally if, in pursuit of that elusive rock, our sixth-formers believe that the knowledge that brings success at A level is all they need to know while at school, they will be utterly ill-equipped to face life and play any meaningful part in the wider and increasingly unpredictable world. To academic qualities must be added the skills and personal qualities which will enable this generation to lead itself towards an even better tomorrow.

Just as there is no point in the individual sacrificing enterprise, initiative and the ability to prosper on a short-term altar made of gold, still greater is the pity and harm for society if our bright young people conquer the academic world but lose their souls in the process. We all need training, not only to meet the challenge of life in a fast-moving and international age but an education in responsibility and compassion.

These are aspects of personal development which require resources of time, thought and energy as essential complements to an academic education. We neglect them at our peril and are more likely to forget them if we believe that the streets of life are paved with A-level gold.

● The author is Headmaster of Conventry School.

- *The Times* will publish daily listings of higher education vacancies during the clearing period, with a helpline to advise applicants on courses.
- From Wednesday, trained staff will be available to discuss the best opportunities for degree and diploma places.
- The full clearing service will be launched in a special supplement on results day, next Thursday, offering advice on the search for a place.
- A second supplement, on August 24, will concentrate on preparation for student life.

Greece is the word

Philip Howard reports on a flourishing summer school

When that August with its searing sunne/The flood of July almost hath undone/Then longer folk to go to summer school ... or at least they get packed off there by their parents, schools or universities as part of the conditional offer of a place. And the oldest and most remarkable of these August institutions takes place at Bryanston School near Blandford Forum in Dorset. It is enough to confound grouches who groan that education is in crisis or "yoof" are not what they used to be when the said grouches were young.

Here, in what was the last great private house to be built in England, are assembled 236 young men and women aged between 16 and 21. They are not here for a holiday: they are working harder, in deeper waters, than they have ever done.

For this is the famous summer school in Ancient Greek run by the Joint Association of Classical Teachers. Students come in all shapes and weights, from complete beginners to advanced scholars who need a final polish before continuing their glittering careers at university. Fifty-eight of them (38 girls and 20 boys) have offers of a place at Oxford, or are there already. Sixty (40 girls and 20 boys) have offers of a place at Cambridge or are there already. Thirty-four come from maintained schools, 202 from independent schools. This year they have also come from Russia, Germany, the Czech Republic, France, the United States and Moldova, as well as from all over Britain. Dr Michael Koss, from Gdynia Bilingual High School in Poland, came as a tutor and observer. He has started a similar summer school at Gdansk.

All day the students attend intensive classes in groups of about eight of similar abilities. They have three hours of prep or homework on grammar, vocabulary and irregular verbs. In their spare time they put on a brilliant concert, listen to general external lectures on such topics as "Ancient Medicine, the final Enema" and perform a Greek play in the original — having had only a fortnight to be cast for it, learn their parts

and rehearse. This year's play was the *Phoenissae* by Euripides, one of his lesser-known works.

It is a sort of *EastEnders* tragicomic saga, with Oedipus, Jocasta and all their warring children muddled up on stage. There are no fewer than four messengers' speeches of darkness, doom and the red death. A chorus of Phoenician maidens, who have lost their way en route to Delphi, express chorus-like sentiments such as "We wonder what will happen but fear the worst". They looked stunning in Macedonian national dress of black with scarlet scarves. The denouement requires



Bryanston: keeping alive the ancient arts

the services of no fewer than five corpse-carriers, selected from students with less advanced grammar. And it was magical. As darkness fell on the open-air theatre, the full moon rose like a silver balloon and floated behind the stage right to left. The twisted old plot of fratricidal jealousy suddenly became moving. The Greek was spoken with such clarity that every syllable could be heard.

So how on earth do they do it, and why? Rajni Shah played Jocasta beautifully, as an old woman bowed down by family doom, incest, ancestral curse and death. But she is, in fact, in her second year at Sidney Sussex, having made the unusual switch from English to Greek in the Cambridge Tripos. She went on Carol Handley's crash course of concentrated Greek to catch up.

"I am fascinated by the theatre. And I

really wanted to read these first tragedies in the original Greek," says Mr Shah. "I can relate to them more. The people here are disgustingly talented. It is a delight to work with them."

Andrew Hobson, this year's director of the summer school, is Grammarian for Oxford University. From Magdalen he teaches intensive Greek to undergraduates who want to read *Mods* and *Greats*, but have not done the groundwork that he taught their predecessors at Eton and Westminster. "It is surprising how much our students enjoy themselves. Of course, it keeps them busy. But few of them get a chance to spend their holidays in such a constructive fashion. They learn more in a fortnight than most of them have in a year," he says.

Jenny Harris has just completed her A levels at Roedean and wants to read Classics at Cambridge. "This is the most work I have ever done in my life. But it is also the most fun I have ever had," she says.

And Mr Koss says: "I found here the generosity and freedom, and the intellectual friendship of Aristotle's Lyceum. You are helping us Poles to rediscover our classical European roots that were cut off under Communism."

So perhaps it is not a paradox that Bryanston is such a delight. The tutors come from the top of their profession, from regius professors to the brightest and best Classics teachers in schools.

After their day's labours they eat and drink like Socrates at a symposium. For this they are offered a tiny honorarium.

But they give up two weeks of their summer holidays because their summer school is a treat as well as important. They teach small classes of highly motivated and talented students, and see the ancient magic working in just two weeks. In their annual demonstration that Greek, and even grammar, can be fun, they are treading in Aristotle's peripatetic footsteps, as he walked and talked to his pupils around his Lyceum 24 centuries ago.

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EQUESTRIANISM

Whitaker relishes return of Two Step

By Jenny MacArthur

MICHAEL WHITAKER and Virtual Village Two Step, his 1996 Olympic horse, gained their biggest success for three years when they won the Fulmar-Masters, the richest prize at the Aachen International Show yesterday, after three faultless rounds.

Whitaker was the only rider among the ten who qualified for the final, nail-biting round, against the clock to take a daring short cut to the penultimate fence. He was rewarded with a time of 38.86sec, which relegated Markus Fuchs, of Switzerland, to second place on Interpane Adelfos by

done everything I've asked him so far."

The other three members in the Great Britain team, which is still seeking its first win of the season, are Mark Armstrong, with Primma, Geoff Billington, riding It's Otto, and John Whitaker, with Virtual Village Heyman. Primma has competed in only two Nations' Cups, but she has shown consistent form this week.

With Heyman having only one Nations' Cup under his belt, it is one of the least familiar Britain teams to have been selected for Aachen. Last year, with four experienced horses in the team, including Billington and It's Otto, the team finished tenth out of 11.

Today, in what promises to be a dress rehearsal for the world championships in Rome in October, they face nine of the world's leading teams. France and Germany start as favourites, the former having won four times this season to lead the Samsung Nations' Cup series. Germany are the Olympic world and European champions and have the added spur of competing in front of their critical home crowd.

Blyth Tait, of New Zealand, the Olympic three-day-event champion, heads the field for the Doubleprint British Horse Trials championships, which start today at Gatcombe Park in Gloucestershire. The 66-strong entry for the British Open includes four former winners — Mark Todd, of New Zealand, Pippa Funnell and Karen Dixon, of Great Britain, and Andrew Hoy, of Australia, the holder of the title.

0.29sec. "He's back to how he used to be," Whitaker said, referring to Two Step's long loss of form after the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Whitaker had asked earlier if he could ride Silk, the least experienced of his three leading horses, in the Nations' Cup today because he felt that the French-bred gelding was showing better form than either Two Step or Ashley, his other top horse. Despite Two Step's heroics, he had no regrets about that decision.

"It's taken me a long time to get him [Two Step] back to this level and I don't want to spoil it now," Whitaker said. "I've got confidence in Silk — he's

Christopher Irvine on a Great Britain touring team facing a huge task



The Great Britain team train for the series against New Zealand which will determine who will become world champions. Pictures: Andrew Varley

ON A visit to Whangarei, Great Britain's men were left gaping in awe at the overwhelming size of the New Zealand Maori rugby league team — the female version, that is.

"If their blokes are any bigger, they'll murder us," one player said. They were and they did.

That experience from the 1996 New Zealand tour emphasises the physical task that awaits Great Britain's women in the first of six games this weekend in Auckland, where there are the same number of female teams as in the whole of England.

In New Zealand, the authorities take the women's game altogether more seriously. The British Rugby Football League has lent some financial support, but the £80,000 for the tour has mainly been funded by "collecting and begging".

Lisa McIntosh, the Britain captain, admitted.

The day before the 26-strong squad departed, the majority were ridding buckets at Hull Kingston Rovers to make up a £2,000 shortfall.

The irony is that, two years ago, Britain's women won a se-

Women out to rattle bones, not buckets

ries in Australia, a feat no professional male national side has achieved since 1970.

Three international matches against New Zealand will determine who are world champions, yet the team has no overall backer. Paula Clark, the physiotherapist, has sponsored the kit and each player has had to chip in £1,000.

"We're taking time off work, and leaving behind husbands, partners and kids, but you don't get to represent your country every five minutes," McIntosh said.

McIntosh, a 30-year-old leisure centre manager in Halifax and lone forward for Dudley Hill Thunderbirds, played football for Manchester United Ladies until she responded to an appeal for rugby league players in her local newspaper.

That was in 1987 and two years later she captained the



McIntosh: experienced

first Great Britain touring side to France.

"What we didn't know then was that the French women only played touch and pass," McIntosh said.

"We ended up playing an under-19 men's side, who just beat us, 10-4."

Preparation for this tour began within months of the 2-1 series victory in Australia and has coincided with a rise in popularity as certain Super League clubs have successfully tapped into a female audience in the move from winter. There are now 21 teams and 500 players, with the most significant increase at junior level. A Britain Academy side is now under consideration.

As well as being the Britain team coach, Jackie Sheldon is women's national development officer. "Before the Australia series, there was nothing for girls to aim at and we were seeing some drop out to rugby union or football," she said. "Now we've got the growth, a strong national side, and by October we hope to have leagues up and running from under-12 to 16 level."

Sheldon, a grandmother at

36, has put away her boots for good, but 15 other veterans of the Australia tour are in New Zealand, including Brenda Dobek, the main inspiration at stand-off half and player-coach of Wakefield Panthers, the dominant force in the women's game.

Natalie Gilmour shares the ability with her brother, Lee, of Wigan, to be just as quick and dangerous at centre or in the pack, while Sally Milburn, a postwoman, and Julie Burrows, a storage line manager, are prop forwards faced with some of the most onerous duties.

As if McIntosh, a comparative strapping at 13st, needed reminding of the New Zealanders' size, it was confirmed by a video of the Auckland team trials smuggled out by Edie Barnard, a New Zealander who once played for Wakefield.

"They're big lasses," McIntosh said. "But Australia seemed huge to us, and we beat them with pace and skill."

TOUR ITINERARY: August 18: New Zealand (Auckland); 19: Auckland (Carlaw Park); 20: New Zealand (Rotorua); 21: Canterbury (Christchurch); 22: New Zealand (Christchurch); 23: New Zealand (Christchurch); 24: New Zealand (Christchurch); 25: New Zealand (Christchurch); 26: New Zealand (Christchurch).

St Helens allow Goulding to move on

By Christopher Irvine

BOBBIE GOULDING yesterday joined Huddersfield Giants, the bottom club in the JJB Super League, after four turbulent years at St Helens, who let the Great Britain scrum half go on a free transfer two and a half weeks after Goulding was suspended for alleged misconduct at the team hotel in Swansea.

"My troubles are all gone," Goulding said. "I've got to make this work and with the help of the Huddersfield board I will." Les Coulter, the club's chief executive, said: "We recognise there are areas we need to strengthen and the signing of Bobbie is just the start." As well as making him easily Huddersfield's highest-paid player, his 18-month contract and bonuses reportedly outstrip his earnings at St Helens.

Goulding, 26, with cheeky spells at Wigan, Leeds and Widnes also behind him, was an enormous influence at St Helens when they won the Super League in 1996 and the Silk Cut Challenge Cup in 1996 and 1997. Lately, his contributions have waned as disciplinary problems, which resulted in him being stripped of the captaincy last year, have resurfaced.

His request to go on loan when he was dropped last month was denied but after the latest misconduct allegation, he was ordered to stay away from the ground pending an investigation. By letting him go without a fee, that particular chapter would appear to be closed.

Leeds can tonight claw back some ground on Wigan at the top of the Super League when London Broncos visit Headingley.

Wigan have confirmed that Denis Betts will be out for at least a month with knee ligament damage. Lee Gilmour and Mick Cassidy will form a new second-row pairing against Sheffield Eagles at Central Park on Sunday.

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Written tests for those wishing to enter as boarders or day pupils will take place at Westminster on Saturday 7th November 1998. Final interviews will be held on Saturday 21st November 1998. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 14th October 1998.

Open days for those wishing to visit the School will be held on Monday 7th September and Friday 2nd October 1998.

Full details may be obtained from the Registrar, Westminster School, Little Dean's Yard, London SW1P 3PP. Telephone: 0171-963-1000.

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RACING: NEWMARKET TRAINER CAN CELEBRATE SIXTIETH BIRTHDAY BY LANDING HUNGERFORD STAKES

Beraysim to give Jarvis perfect present

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL JARVIS can find the perfect way to celebrate his sixtieth birthday today by landing the Hungerford Stakes at Newbury with Beraysim, a progressive filly who is the best three-year-old in his Newmarket yard.

During a training career spanning 30 years, the quietly spoken handler has plundered many of racing's most prized jewels — including the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe — but the group three race, over an extended seven furlongs at the Berkshire track, has eluded his grasp.

However, he is optimistic that Beraysim can break the duck after four starts this season, which have seen the Lion Cavern filly emerge as a fast-improving seven-furlong specialist. After a most encouraging debut behind Digitalize at Newmarket's Guineas meeting, she duly landed her maiden in taking style by four lengths from Karlyh at Goodwood.

She is not the easiest filly on whom to get condition so Jarvis waited seven weeks before her next run, and his patience was rewarded when she ran a cracker behind Lovers Knot in the group two Falmouth Stakes, just failing to see out the demanding mile. Stepped back to seven fur-



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

longs in a recent listed race at Goodwood, she trotted up from Astraak and Igreja.

"We are hopeful," Jarvis said yesterday. "She's in good form and had a relatively comfortable race at Goodwood."

The likely fast ground will suit, as will the expected strong pace provided by the front-running Danish Rhapsody and Muhtathir. The slight concern is her wide draw in stall ten, but she has plenty of early speed and Frankie Devoni should be able to take up a handy position just off the lead.

Ramooz, another seven-furlong specialist who has already won a group race,

Richard Evans

recorded arguably the best performance of his career when chasing home Jo Mell under a big weight at Ascot last Saturday. Ben Hanbury's runner is best held up off a strong pace so he should have the race run to suit.

Muhtathir, regarded as John Gosden's best two-year-old last year, boasts the best form, having finished second to Victory Note in the French 2000 Guineas, and he won a minor event effortlessly at Doncaster 15 days ago. The step back in trip is a concern.

Those looking for a value proposition might consider Primely Fair, winner of a group one race last year. However, Beraysim is a confident choice.

I cannot recall the last time a listed race for two-year-olds was contested entirely by newcomers, but that is the choice facing punters in the Washington Singer Stakes (2.40), the first of three races being screened on BBC2. Look no further than Phareekh, who sidestepped an easier engagement at Salisbury on Wednesday in favour of this



Beraysim is fancied to capture the Hungerford Stakes at Newbury today

FOLKESTONE
2.00 Ring of Love, 2.30 Poles Apart, 3.00 Beis Louisa, 3.30 Arcturion, 4.00 Poles Apart, 4.30 Wedding Band.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM. DRAW: SF-6F, LOW BEST SIS

2.00 PAT MARSH SHOW NURSERY HANDICAP
(2-Y-O: £2,623: 5f) (8 runners)
1. JACKIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
2. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
3. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
4. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
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7. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
8. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7

2.30 BROADSWORTH MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,905: 6f) (8 runners)
1. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
2. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
3. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
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8. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7

3.00 DAVID CAMERON MEMORIAL NURSERY HANDICAP
(2-Y-O: £3,184: 6f 109yds) (11 runners)
1. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
2. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
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11. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7

1.50 STARS STAKES (Div 1: £2,161: 7f) (11 runners)
1. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
2. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
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11. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7

2.00 MARS HANDICAP (Div 1: £2,161: 7f) (11 runners)
1. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
2. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
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2.50 STARS STAKES (Div 1: £2,161: 7f) (11 runners)
1. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
2. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
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4.00 STARS STAKES (Div 1: £2,161: 7f) (11 runners)
1. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
2. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
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4.50 STARS STAKES (Div 1: £2,161: 7f) (11 runners)
1. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
2. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
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5.00 STARS STAKES (Div 1: £2,161: 7f) (11 runners)
1. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
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5.50 STARS STAKES (Div 1: £2,161: 7f) (11 runners)
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6.00 STARS STAKES (Div 1: £2,161: 7f) (11 runners)
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11. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7

7.00 STARS STAKES (Div 1: £2,161: 7f) (11 runners)
1. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
2. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
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7.50 STARS STAKES (Div 1: £2,161: 7f) (11 runners)
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10. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
11. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7

3.30 EASTWELL MANOR HANDICAP
(£3,623: 6f 189yds) (5 runners)
1. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
2. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
3. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
4. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
5. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM. DRAW: SF-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

6.00 NEWMARKET MAIDEN OATS AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (£2,243: 1m 31 2/4yds) (7 runners)
1. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
2. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
3. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
4. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
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6. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
7. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7

4.00 POIL SELLING STAKES
(£1,725: 1m 4f) (6 runners)
1. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
2. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
3. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
4. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
5. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
6. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7

4.30 KENT MESSENGER GROUP NEWSPAPERS HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,384: 2m 6yds) (8 runners)
1. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
2. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
3. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
4. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
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7. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
8. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7

3.20 SUNLINE HANDICAP (£3,980: 1m) (10 runners)
1. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
2. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
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10. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7

3.50 PEYERL HANDICAP (£2,384: 1m 4f) (10 runners)
1. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
2. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
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9. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
10. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7

4.20 VENUS STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,145: 5f) (10 runners)
1. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
2. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
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10. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7

4.50 JUPITER HANDICAP (£2,721: 6f) (10 runners)
1. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
2. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
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5.00 JUPITER HANDICAP (£2,721: 6f) (10 runners)
1. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
2. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
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5.50 JUPITER HANDICAP (£2,721: 6f) (10 runners)
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2. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
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6.00 JUPITER HANDICAP (£2,721: 6f) (10 runners)
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8.00 JUPITER HANDICAP (£2,721: 6f) (10 runners)
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10. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7

WARWICK
5.45 Golden Lyric, 6.15 Bering Gifts, 6.45 Indian Warrior, 7.15 Bering Gifts, 7.45 Indian Warrior, 8.15 Bering Gifts, 8.45 Indian Warrior.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM. DRAW: SF, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

5.45 LEAGUE OF FRIENDS HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,785: 1m) (13 runners)
1. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
2. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
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12. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
13. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7

6.15 RITA PARKES BIRTHDAY MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,550: 1m) (6 runners)
1. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
2. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
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5. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
6. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7

6.45 GRS MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,444: 7f) (12 runners)
1. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
2. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-7
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11. JESSIE'S BERRY 6 (J) W M Jones 6-

Second division moves to top of Conference agenda

THE full-scale redrawing of the non-league map promised by the Football Conference's plan to establish a second division will not deflect energies from what promises to be a fiercely competitive season that kicks off tomorrow.

With Rushden and Diamonds and Stevenage Borough introducing full-time football, to go along with Hereford United and Doncaster Rovers, a no-holds-barred pursuit of the promotion place to the Nationwide League is in prospect.

Fourteen clubs now possess A-graded grounds, with another four closing in fast, so the ability of

the Conference to prepare clubs for the step up is clear. Macclesfield Town, in the past year, and Halifax Town, this week, have shown that the clubs have much to offer the Nationwide League in playing terms. It is this impetus to progress that attracts clubs to the idea of a second division. John Mowles, the Conference secretary, said: "We've received letters from 21 clubs that have indicated that, should the FA approve our application to set up a second division, they would be extremely interested in joining."

"We're waiting for a reply to our request to the FA to establish it and

Walter Gammie on non-league football's hopes and dreams on eve of new season

we're expecting that about November time. There's no precedent to suggest us failing in our application. There should be no problem."

In fact, the FA has itself introduced significant changes to the calendar and, consequently, the rhythm of the season, by altering exemptions in the FA Cup and the FA Umbro Trophy. All 22 Conference clubs will enter the FA Cup in

the third qualifying round on October 17, sparing those clubs that used to appear in the first qualifying round but denying previous exemptions to the fourth qualifying round and first round proper.

Conference clubs will enter the Trophy in the second round, bringing forward their traditional new year bow to the competition to November 21. The Trophy and FA Carls-

berg Vase finals — along with the FA Cup — will, incidentally, be settled by penalties after extra time, doing away with possible replays.

The new format is undoubtedly tidier and gives greater scope to smaller clubs to progress, but the Conference feels that it has, on balance, lost out by these changes. "We will have to play more matches in midweek and that will be a real financial burden on clubs," Mowles said. "There are so many live European football matches on television that it has a tremendous impact on our clubs. This season there will also be the European

championship match against Bulgaria on a Saturday [October 10], which will kick off at 3 o'clock and will be live on Sky. That will also hit our clubs."

Nobody is going to be unduly concerned about such matters tomorrow. The Conference newcomers, Forest Green Rovers — at home to Rushden — Kingsnorton, at home to Stevenage Borough, will be delighted to get their feet under the table. Doncaster, under new ownership and new management, will travel to Dover Athletic happy to be making the journey at all.

Boardman back in saddle for Britain

Boardman will ride for Great Britain in the 4,000 metres at the world championships in Bordeaux later this month. Boardman, the world record-holder at the distance and twice champion, has been unable to train on the road since he crashed during the second stage of the Tour de France in Ireland and broke his left wrist.

To win his third gold medal, Boardman will have to ride three pursuits on the opening day of the series. In recent trials at Manchester, Boardman has recorded the fastest times in Britain this year.

Snooker: Mehmet Husnu, from Cyprus, yesterday made the second 147 break in four days during the qualifying rounds of the China International at Plymouth Pavilions. Husnu's maximum break, the thirteenth in a ranking tournament and the sixth in professional snooker in the past 19 months, follows Adrian Gunnell's 147-break in the Thailand Masters on Monday. Husnu, who beat Eddie Barker 5-4, will receive a £5,000 bonus and another £1,000 for the pre-television highest break if no one equals it.

Basketball: Chris Pullen became the youngest coach in the Budweiser League yesterday when Worthing Bears announced the appointment of the 28-year-old former coach of Emerson College, in Boston. Worthing are hoping for more stability than last season, when they survived a financial crisis and three different coaches.

Tennis: Goran Ivanisevic, the runner-up at Wimbledon this year, lost to Petr Korda in the third round of the ATP championship in Mason, Ohio, yesterday. Ivanisevic served for the match while leading 5-3 in the third set, but Korda, from the Czech Republic, fought back to win 5-7, 6-4, 7-5.

Golf: Eddie Pollard will hope to shake off the disappointment of suffering successive defeats in play-offs by winning the West of Ireland seniors championship, which starts today at the new East Clare Golf Club in Ballyke. The Ulsterman has finished second-best to Brian Huggert in the past two senior events that have needed extra holes, including the Senior British Open last week.

FOOTBALL

Gillespie denies that injury is threatening career

By George Caulkin and Russell Kempson

TEN days after Keith Gillespie's proposed £3.5 million transfer from Newcastle United to Middlesbrough collapsed in confusion and acrimony, the Northern Ireland winger went on the offensive last night, roundly condemning reports that the lingering ankle injury that soured the move might end his career.

Amid contrasting signals from the FA Carling Premiership club, Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, described the claims, which originated from a local evening newspaper, as "fantasy". The suggestion implicit in the story, however, was that the information had come directly from the upper echelons of St James' Park.

"I can't believe there is anybody who works at this club who would gain any benefit or form in any way, shape, or form that anyone would gain any benefit from such an inaccurate and negative story," Dalglish said. "If there is someone here who is employed by the club and they are sending stories like that, then they don't deserve to be here."

Whatever the source, Gillespie, 23, was in the unenviable position of arriving at Newcastle's Gateshead training ground yesterday to be confronted with a back-page headline that read: "Your Career Could Be Over". Gillespie said: "It's hard to say where they've actually come from, but they're totally untrue."

While Gillespie confirmed that his recuperation is set to gather pace when he resumes full training at the beginning of next week, Ian Elliot, his agent, did admit that the injury sustained by his client at White Hart Lane last April



Gillespie: confusion

and which caused him to fail a medical at Middlesbrough, was not as straightforward as it first appeared.

"There is a problem there, we're not going to deny that and Middlesbrough felt it was too much of a problem for them to take him at the time," he said. "Since he's been back, Newcastle have had their medical people look at it and we've had an independent opinion and both have indicated that it's nowhere near as bad as Middlesbrough thought. It's healing very well and he's back in training. The 'problem' involves bruising to one of Gillespie's right ankle bones."

Shane Nicholson, the former West Bromwich Albion defender, will be allowed to resume his career. His suspension from "all forms of the game" was lifted yesterday by the Football Association after a hearing in London.

Nicholson, 28, was banned by the FA in April after being found guilty of failing to take a random drugs test two months earlier. He was subsequently dismissed by West Bromwich.

Last October, the former Lincoln City and Derby County left back tested positive for

amphetamines — more commonly known as "speed" — but the case against him was withdrawn after a friend admitted spiking Nicholson's drink.

"It's a great relief," Nicholson said. "The past three or four months have been very stressful for me and my family. It's the hardest battle I've ever had. You don't want to have to deal with it, and I'm dealing with it on a daily basis."

Nicholson is now hoping to help to educate fellow players on the dangers of drugs. "Shane is very willing," Brendan Batson, deputy chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, said. "If anybody needs to speak to him, he will talk to them."

Coventry City's confusing signing of Robert Jarni took another twist yesterday when the Croatia midfielder player claimed that he had not concluded his move to Highfield Road. On Tuesday, Bryan Richardson, the Coventry chairman, said that the £2.6 million transfer fee had already been paid to Real Betis, Jarni's former club in Spain.

Richardson also revealed that Real Madrid had subsequently shown an interest in Jarni, having agreed a fee but then backed out of the deal. "We made the payment in full to Real Betis and if anyone wants to discuss the player's purchase, this can only be done with Coventry City," Richardson said.

Zoran Vekic, Jarni's agent, gave a different version yesterday. "Robert sent a fax to Coventry to say officially that he has not reached an agreement with them," he said. "We are waiting to see if things can be resolved between the clubs but, in my opinion, he is going to play for Madrid."



Gebrselassie, of Ethiopia, acknowledges the crowd after winning the 5,000 metres at the Weltklasse in Zurich

Weltklasse losing its attraction

By Jason Henderson

THE Weltklasse in Zurich lived up to its name on Wednesday night by producing world-class performances in every event. But a dear of pure athletics might not be enough to keep it sitting on top of the globe as the No 1 Grand Prix meeting. A bit of razzamazz might be needed too.

The Weltklasse is known as the three-hour Olympics and delivers the best athletes that \$4 million can buy, together with world records. In the past 40 years the world rekord has been flashed around the Letzigrund Stadium 23 times.

But on Wednesday night, warm temperatures in the Swiss city were blamed for the record drought that followed. In Belgium, Wilfried Meert, a rival Golden League organiser, will have been licking his lips at Zurich's misfortune.

Meerts' meeting, the Ivo Van Damme Memorial in Brussels on August 28, is rapidly building a reputation to match Zurich's.

Zurich relies on pure athletics to draw its 24,000 crowd but Meert does not simply rely on the athletes. He organises a fireworks display at the King Baudouin Stadium and invites African drummers to bang rhythmically as the athletes circle the track.

Brussels gets the performances too. In Zurich three world records were set by African middle-distance runners last year. But Brussels parried the blow by producing two records of its own.

In Zurich on Wednesday they could

have done with those drums. There was only one world-record near-miss, by Hicham El Guerrouj, of Morocco, in the men's 1,500 metres race, failed to break the world 5,000 metres record.

Andreas Brügger, Zurich's meeting director, defended the Weltklasse. He blamed temperatures in the stadium that were still up to 27 degrees Celsius when the evening's final event took place. "You can still have a great meet without world records," he added.

Great maybe. But not the best. Given Britain's weather, world records are a rarity indeed. So if a British meeting is to win the Golden League status it so craves, then maybe Brussels, rather than Zurich, is the model to learn from.

WIN A CLASSIC FERRARI 328 GTB

The leaderboard after the German Grand Prix appears below with M Greenhaigh of Norfolk leading the race for the chance to win a classic Ferrari 328 GTB or a trip to either the 1999 Australian or Monaco Grands Prix. His team, Odds Against, has 9,412 points and scored 617 points in Germany. In second place on 9,408 points is B Stoner from Ipswich whose team, Ecure Wobble, scored 682 points in the race. D Edbrooks-Stainer from Petersfield, Hants, is in third place on 9,360 points, with his team Grab 3. You can change up to four selections before the Belgian race by calling 0891 555 994 (+44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon on Thursday August 27.

OUR LEADERBOARD AFTER THE GERMAN GRAND PRIX

POS	TEAM	MANAGER	POINTS
1	Odds Against	M Greenhaigh	9412
2	Ecure Wobble	B Stoner	9408
3	Grab 3	D Edbrooks-Stainer	9360
4	Dads Demon Drivers	C Rowland	9348
5	New Street Racers	R Smith	9287
6	System Link	N Roy	9200
7	Cortex Vortex	M Walton	9173
8	Mutleys Maniacs	C Wells	9056
9	Team Coffee Plus	S Parfitt	9009
10	Form Wise	B Hyde	8967
11	Team 16	A Malakis	8962
12	Kingsland Team Four	K Kingsland	8907
13	Muffin The Mule	S Lau	8896
14	Hannahs Spanners	D Scrogg	8894
15	Is Damon Over T Hill	B Stebbings	8876
16	Gronmitt	S Lau	8872
17	Filter Trip	T Hudson	8862
18	World Waiting For	J Weir	8862
19	The Mac Lads	B Jordan	8862
20	Team Ortholab	P Bessant	8862
21	Supersonic	Mrs J Penn	8862
22	Personal	P Collins	8862
23	Broadheads Aces	D Broadhead	8862

0891 calls cost 60p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls).

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS ZURICH 400m Grand Prix meet: Men: 1, D. G. Greenhaigh (Norfolk) 1:00.1; 2, M. Greenhaigh (Norfolk) 1:00.4; 3, F. Fredericks (Northern Ireland) 1:00.5; 4, M. Greenhaigh (Norfolk) 1:00.6; 5, M. Greenhaigh (Norfolk) 1:00.7; 6, M. Greenhaigh (Norfolk) 1:00.8; 7, M. Greenhaigh (Norfolk) 1:00.9; 8, M. Greenhaigh (Norfolk) 1:01.0; 9, M. Greenhaigh (Norfolk) 1:01.1; 10, M. Greenhaigh (Norfolk) 1:01.2; 11, M. Greenhaigh (Norfolk) 1:01.3; 12, M. Greenhaigh (Norfolk) 1:01.4; 13, M. Greenhaigh (Norfolk) 1:01.5; 14, M. Greenhaigh (Norfolk) 1:01.6; 15, M. Greenhaigh (Norfolk) 1:01.7; 16, M. Greenhaigh (Norfolk) 1:01.8; 17, M. Greenhaigh (Norfolk) 1:01.9; 18, M. Greenhaigh (Norfolk) 1:02.0; 19, M. Greenhaigh (Norfolk) 1:02.1; 20, M. Greenhaigh (Norfolk) 1:02.2; 21, M. Greenhaigh (Norfolk) 1:02.3; 22, M. Greenhaigh (Norfolk) 1:02.4; 23, M. Greenhaigh (Norfolk) 1:02.5; 24, M. Greenhaigh (Norfolk) 1:02.6; 25, M. Greenhaigh (Norfolk) 1:02.7; 26, M. Greenhaigh (Norfolk) 1:02.8; 27, M. 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Peel's peregrinations and life by the sea

John Peel and I have never met but I see a version of him in the mirror every day. This has been going on for decades. Back then he was slim with ample hair, then he was a radical disc jockey, one of the few bearers of that now-discredited description who sounded as if he possessed more than a football for a brain.

Often I have not enjoyed the music he enjoys but I have always enjoyed his style and his determined anti-fashionism. We have grown older together and although his hair follicles seem to have taken an earlier retirement than mine, there is less in it than meets the eye. We both have more grey now and we seem to wrap ourselves in shirts we would have discarded 30 years ago.

There are differences, oh yes. The most notable of these is that Peel, the ultimate man of radio, has of late fitted a second string to his bow, that of television present-

er and narrator. Judged from last night's scheduling, there are signs that he enjoys the experience so much he is turning into a serial narrator.

Moving People and Classic Homes now follow each other in the Channel 4 Thursday schedule, so that we can overdose on Peel without having to leave our seats or flick channels, but for presentational novelty I cannot better Moving People, which Peel opened last night from a ditch in front of his Suffolk country home. Suffolk? Country? Home? John Peel? Why yes and why not? Peel is now a Radio 4 lifestyle presenter and you cannot get a job in that line of work without living in Suffolk.

Moving People had the usual eclectic mix last night: two old dears deciding to move in with each other (one liked it, the other didn't); a couple who have turned

up in the media before after being shipwrecked and losing all their possessions; and a man who won £3.75 million on the lottery.

The lottery winner is John Myles and by God, did he sound excited about it? Not even slightly. He sounded about as excited as might a person who has just got a ticket from a pay and display machine without putting in any money.

Myles, who was earning £230 a week respraying cars when his numbers came up, bought a bigger house and spent six months worrying about what the builders who converted it for him were up to. What did you do when you won the lottery? I had the builders in. Oh, that's nice.

You had to feel sorry for Myles: a marriage down the drain, another relationship ended: "I don't want to spend the rest of my life alone." On the other hand I

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

long for a lottery winner to come on the television and tell me he has never had it so good, that he has been walking on air since day one, that all you people who aren't millionaires are a bunch of mugs. It will never happen: there is something terribly British about the notion of being sad but rich.

Peel's other excursion, in Classic Homes By The Sea, was a straight narration in his familiar avuncu-

lar style. The homes were indeed classics of their kind, including the Needles lighthouse, now only visited by a man who changes the lightbulbs: how many lighthouse keepers does it take... There were also some funny-looking chalets in Suffolk and Norfolk, places that looked as if they had been built from the leftovers of other projects, but charming in their way.

One chap explained what you do if you have a rotten window. You wonder about looking in skips and suchlike and when you find a window that looks in good nick, you take it home. Obviously, this window is unlikely to be the same size as the rotten one, so you simply alter the size of the window aperture by building more wall. Be honest: you never thought of that.

I liked the people more than the buildings. There is an economy, of speech and movement, that derives from a lifetime of living from the sea. They have reduced

everything to the essentials. Even their sentences have been stripped of participles, adjectives and other fancy bits. One person left a sign crumpled on part of an old cardboard box: "Come over boats back 40 minutes." What a wonderful combination of mystery and precision.

Medicine Women (BBC1) has been a very good series, full of incredibly efficient, dedicated and hardworking women doctors. Last night's final programme was no exception, indeed it wrapped all the others into one by featuring Amanda Kirby, an incredibly efficient, dedicated and hardworking Cardiff doctor.

The programme went slightly awry by getting too bogged down in Kirby's consuming passion, which is the treatment of dyspnea or "clumsy child syndrome." One could see the problem: how to feature Kirby without getting embroiled in her main work, which is running the Dyspnea (sic) Centre in Cardiff, aimed at helping children with the condition.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (35375)
 - 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (118527)
 - 9.00am Kilroy Parental pressure on children (118528)
 - 9.40am What Now? A young man whose parents want him to date within his class, couple choose between more TV treatment and a holiday (118529)
 - 10.05am Easy Money With (1122207)
 - 10.30am The Rankin Challenge The chef helps two students prepare a budget banquet (1122207)
 - 11.00am News (118529)
 - 11.05am Good Living (118529)
 - 11.30am All Over the Shop (118530)
 - 11.55am News (118530)
 - 12.00am Every Second Counts (118531)
 - 12.30pm A Word in Your Ear (118532)
 - 1.00pm News (118532)
 - 1.30pm Regional News (118533)
 - 1.40pm Neighbours (118534)
 - 2.05pm Parry Mason (118535)
 - 3.35pm Pingu (118536)
 - 4.00pm Popeye (118537)
 - 4.10pm The Worst of (118538)
 - 4.30pm On Your Marks (118539)
 - 4.55pm Never Work (118540)
 - 5.00pm Newsround (118541)
 - 5.10pm The Bz (118542)
 - 5.35pm Neighbours (118543)
 - 6.00pm News (118544)
 - 6.30pm Regional News (118545)
 - 7.00pm Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook Fiona Phillips and Eamonn Holmes, assisted by chefs Kevin Woodford and Lesley Waters (118546)
 - 7.30pm Top of the Pops (118547)
 - 8.00pm Family Ties: Gourmet Night Basil decides to raise the hotel's reputation with an exclusive night of gourmet cuisine (118548)
 - 8.30pm Driving School: Learner driver Maureen hopes she is ready for her final challenge. Last in series (118549)
 - 9.00pm News (118550)
 - 9.30pm Hetty Wainthropp Investigates: Mind over Muscle Robert begins a new career as a newscaster and Hetty joins a gym to help Hetty to solve a case for her hairdresser (118551)
 - 10.20pm Cheri's estranged father turns up out of the blue, prompting the father to hide all evidence that he has left him. Hetty's Henry stars (118552)
 - 10.50pm Heartburn Hotel A deposed African prince books in (118553)
 - 11.20pm Critters III (1982) with Don Opper, Almee Brooks and a young Leonardo DiCaprio. Horror comedy sequel with the newly orphaned, funny aliena weeping more heavily. Directed by Kristine Peterson (118554)
 - 12.45am Devil of Darkness (1984) with William Sylvester and Tracy Reed. A modern-day French vampire treats a group of British tourists to a Hellaween tour of the local crypts. Directed by Lance Comfort (118555)
 - 2.10pm Weather (118556)
 - 2.15pm BBC News 24

- BBC2**
- 6.10am A Level Playing Field? (728424)
 - 6.35pm Global Films in the Industrial East (380755)
 - 7.00pm Open a Door (118556)
 - 7.05pm The Smiths (118557)
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RUGBY LEAGUE 41

Goulding finally sent packing by St Helens

SPORT

FRIDAY AUGUST 14 1998

GOLF 46

King reigns supreme at British Open

Hoddle risks losing trust of his players

GLENN HODDLE was facing the most serious crisis of his career as England coach last night as it grew increasingly apparent that the divisive and destructive nature of recent revelations he has made about England's World Cup campaign and its protagonists had called his credibility into question.

Extracts from Hoddle's glorified World Cup diary have been printed in *The Sun* this week and have included scathing and colourful attacks on players, including Paul Gascoigne, Chris Sutton and Teddy Sheringham, that many within the game consider to be unforgivable breaches of confidence and etiquette.

As Hoddle faced mounting criticism from respected figures within the sport, including Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, who called his conduct "unprofessional", it was also becoming clear that his actions have alienated some of the most influential players within the England squad and left them thoroughly disenchanted with his leadership style.

He now faces a crucial meeting with many of his players at a get-together at Bisham Abbey on Sunday, when he will have to try to reassure them about his motives for revealing some of



Oliver Holt says the England football coach has done himself few favours

his private dealings with them and convince them that he is the man to lead them forward to the European championship finals in Holland and Belgium in 2000.

Understandably, none of the players were willing to make their grievances public yesterday, but it has been pointed out that Terry Venables, Hoddle's predecessor, steadfastly refused to divulge any details of the incident on a flight home from Hong Kong that upset his squad's preparations for the 1996 European championship.

In contrast, Hoddle spared nothing in his description of Gascoigne's distress when he was told that he had been omitted from the squad. He has also deepened his rift with Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, upon whom he depends for the release of a bevy of young internationals, by calling him "crazy".

In fact, it is Hoddle who seems to have taken leave of his senses. Far from counting his blessings that he had escaped with his reputation

undamaged after England's early World Cup exit — courtesy, largely, of the finger he pointed at David Beckham — Hoddle's book is written with an arrogance suggestive of a manager who had won the tournament. That, coupled with his assertion that the only mistake he made during the competition was in not allowing his faith healer, Eileen Drenvery, to accompany the squad to France, has led to a backlash from players and officials alike.

His contract with the Football Association runs for another two years, and with the first qualifying match for Euro 2000 less than three weeks away it is almost inconceivable that he will not be allowed to steer England through to the finals. His actions, though, have made his task much harder.

Which England player now can go into a private meeting with Hoddle and expect it to remain private? Which player can break Hoddle's rules — as Sheringham and Gascoigne did — without expecting their sins to be made public and their contribution to be the subject of a chapter in the next tome? If he had gained their trust, he will have lost it now.

One also wonders what position Hoddle will be in if Gascoigne enjoys a stellar start to the season with Middlesbrough and makes a cast-iron case for an international recall. That particular relationship is now surely damaged beyond repair. Gascoigne, for all his problems and despite the fact that he deserved to be left out of the final 22, remains a hugely popular character with the other players.

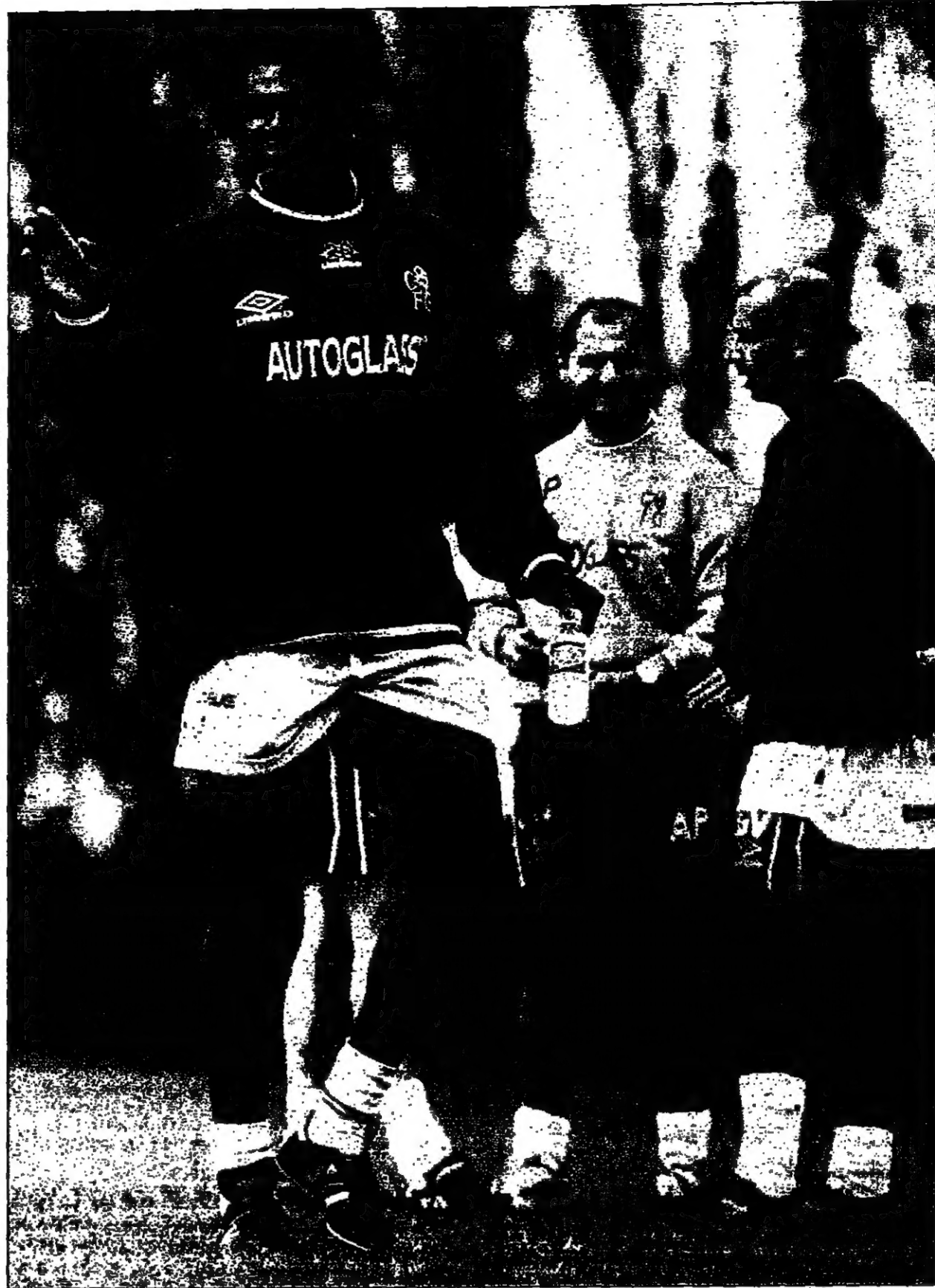
There will, undoubtedly, be calls for Hoddle to resign before his next scheduled meeting with his players on Tuesday. They will both be crucial exercises in damage limitation for Hoddle, who will have to repair relationships within his squad and try to persuade the press that he is not talking in half-truths.

Last night, Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, defended Hoddle's right to produce his diary and said the FA "has no wish to attempt to censor his views". But the book — *Glenn Hoddle, the 1996 World Cup Story* — was written by its director of communications, David Davies, a fact that calls into question whether the public were misled during the tournament so that details could be saved for the book.

Davies defended his role last night. He said that Hoddle had asked him to write it so that he could not be accused of favouring one journalist above another. Of the revelations surrounding Gascoigne, Davies said that Hoddle considered the matter was in the public domain after the player had put his side of events in a newspaper. "I am not aware that anyone is suggesting there has been any other breach of confidence," Davies said.

DESPIITE fresh Welsh resistance, the British league would appear to have taken a step closer to reality last night after a fruitful meeting between the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and England's leading clubs yesterday. Both sides agreed to continue to pursue the concept in time for the forthcoming season and urged other unions to enter urgent negotiations.

A joint statement from the RFU and English Rugby Partnership (ERP) said: "The immediate commercial requirements are to publish a fixture list of this proposed and exciting concept that has caught the imagination of the rugby public and to achieve formal recognition of the competition by the relevant unions."



Desailly presents an imposing sight during training yesterday, with Vialli keeping busy in the background

Vialli supports the foreign legion

By Oliver Holt, Football Correspondent

GIANLUCA VIALLI, the Chelsea player-manager, last night mounted a spirited defence of his club's predilection for swelling the ranks of foreign players in the FA Cup Premiership on the day that he presented two new high-quality imports to the media and allowed another home-grown talent to move on in search of first-team football.

As it was emerging that Frank Sinclair, the right back who many had identified as Chelsea's Achilles heel last season, had moved to Leicester City for £2 million, Vialli proudly paraded Marcel Desailly, the World Cup's most accomplished defender, and Pierluigi Casiraghi, the Italian forward, in front of the cameras at the club's Harlington training ground near Heathrow.

Chelsea have been singled out by Terry Venables, the former England coach, and by Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, as the club most guilty of stifling the opportunities of local players because of their aggressive policy of buying big from abroad.

However, as Vialli aired his hopes that Chelsea would become realistic challengers for Arsenal's title this season by cutting out the inconsistent

cies that bedevilled them throughout last year, he spoke like a child of the European Community, saying that he had been brought up to believe in Europe, not individual nation states, and that he cared only about the quality of his players, not where they came from.

"To be honest, I don't care about whether players are English," Vialli said. "I do not look at their nationality when I pick the team. I just want it to be successful. If someone is English or American or Ital-

Gillespie denial — 45

ian. I do not care. I only need the players to speak the same language on the pitch and I promise you that is English."

"We are all from Europe and I was always taught that we have to think about Europe now, not England, Germany or France. I might be wrong, but I don't think the supporters care too much about the fact that there are not enough English players in the team. They just want to come and see Chelsea play and win trophies."

With Brian Laudrup, the former Rangers winger, unlikely to be fit enough to make

his debut against Coventry City at Highfield Road on Saturday, most attention will focus on Desailly, the man who was arguably the foundation upon which France built their World Cup victory, and Casiraghi, Chelsea's record £5.4 million signing from Lazio, as the players who will be able to help them improve on their fourth place in the Premiership last season.

Desailly, a giant of a man, spoke in a disarmingly quiet voice about his happiness at the World Cup success and his determination to move on to new challenges with Chelsea. "The faculty of man is to forget," he said. He also made it clear that he had a point to prove to AC Milan, his previous employers, who sold him with two years of his contract still remaining. "I have not come here for a rest," he said.

Vialli remained the star of the show, though, articulate and good-humoured as ever. "Unfortunately for us," he said, "all the other teams in the Premiership are very well aware that we are a side who are capable of winning the title. Sometimes it is better if you start from the shadows so it is a surprise for the rest of them."

meeting, Brian Baister, the chairman of the RFU Management Board, said: "Although we were disappointed with the lack of progress earlier this week, we believe that we now have a positive platform from which to move forward."

Donald Kerr, chairman of ERP, said he believed that WRU reservations as expressed earlier in the week could be overcome. "Time is obviously very short. Our aim now is to negotiate, discuss and progress this initiative."

Both the RFU and the clubs acknowledge that a cross-border competition and a European Cup, to which England are prepared to return, were the only realistic means of improving standards in the northern hemisphere.

FA drops charge against Clough

By Russell Kempson

BRIAN CLOUGH, the former Nottingham Forest manager, has had his charge of misconduct dropped by the Football Association. The FA announced yesterday that it will not continue with disciplinary proceedings into alleged unauthorised payments involving transfer dealings because of Clough's ill health.

The charges were brought, and strenuously denied, by Clough, last January after publication of the results of an FA investigation, set up in October 1993, into the "bung" scandal. George Graham, the former Arsenal manager, was found guilty and banned from the sport for a year.

Clough's alleged involvement centred on the signing by Forest, which he managed from 1975 to 1993, of two players from Leicester United, the non-league club. Ronnie Fenton, his assistant manager, and Steve Burtenshaw, the chief scout at Arsenal, were also charged with misconduct.

"Brian is not gravely ill, nor is he housebound, but his health is poor," Michael Clavell-Bate, Clough's lawyer, said last night. "He was perfectly willing to advance a defence case, but the amount of effort and time needed would have been enormous. He is 63, has not been involved in the game for five years and some injuries he sustained in his playing career have caught up with him."

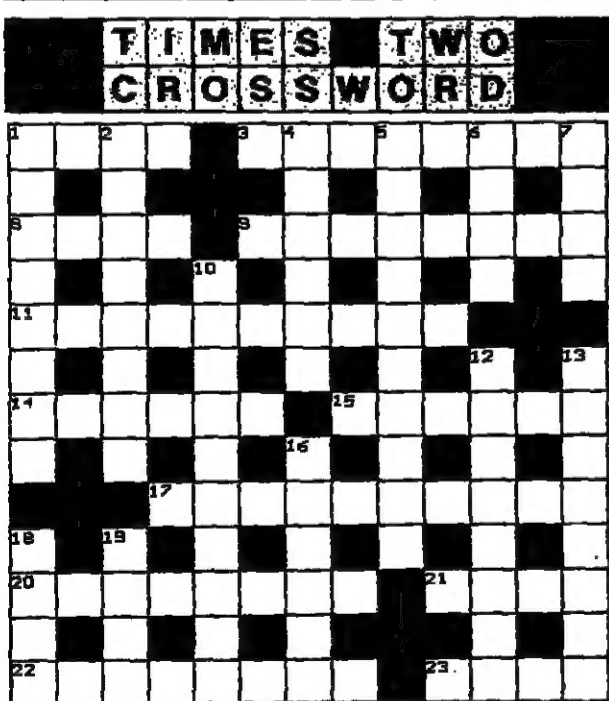
"Having the charge hanging over him is bound to have taken its toll as well. He is happy that it has been concluded and dearly hopes to be remembered for his achievements and not for the allegations made against him."

In a statement, the FA said: "Mr Clough has provided medical evidence that indicates he is unfit to attend a personal hearing. The FA considers that, in all the circumstances, Mr Clough would not be able to present his defence to the best of his ability and it would be in no one's interest to continue the prosecution."

Outstanding misconduct charges against Fenton, who no longer works for Forest, and Burtenshaw, who has left Arsenal, are due to be heard on September 16. Charges against Forest arising from the inquiry will also be heard by an FA disciplinary commission, on a date to be confirmed.



Davies, right, has defended his role in Hoddle's diary



No 1484

- ACROSS
- 1 A crest carry, some honey (4)
 - 3 Daughter's husband (3-2-3)
 - 8 Norse (magic) letter (4)
 - 9 German airport (8)
 - 11 One addicted to job (10)
 - 14 Bring out of hiding (6)
 - 15 Large hollow in rock; Beatles nightclub (6)
 - 17 Outline (drawing) (10)
 - 20 Make abnormally thin (8)
 - 21 Leave; section (4)
 - 22 Assiduous (8)
 - 23 Unite by heat (4)

- DOWN
- 1 Tired by worries (8)
 - 2 Tropical swamp tree (8)
 - 4 US state, had sister Trail (6)
 - 5 Approval (esp. to print) (10)
 - 6 Quiet interlude (4)
 - 7 Slowly decrease (4)
 - 10 (Clint) adhering to the rules (3-7)
 - 12 Conan Doyle's Inspector (8)
 - 13 Turned upside down (8)
 - 16 Quantum of light (6)
 - 18 Mildly obscene (4)
 - 19 (College) dining-room; Bilko's Colonel (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1483

- ACROSS: 1 Hot potato 6 Sag 8 Comment 9 Talmi
10 Lock 11 Mutineer 13 Runner 14 Hectic 17 Gauntlet
18 Envy 20 Alibi 21 Bravura 22 Dog 23 Niggardly
DOWN: 1 Heckler 2 Time-consuming 3 Ode 4 Arful
5 Outsider 6 Silver-tongued 7 Goner 12 Jetison 15 Cry-baby 16 Tea bag 17 Grand 19 Lava

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